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St Brigid's Cathedral, c. 1739 (Ware)

KILDARE

Kildare lies near the western margin of a fertile tract of drift-covered Carboniferous limestone, some 25 kilometres wide and from 30 to 120 metres above sea level, which separates the granite Wicklow Mountains and their slate foothills from the boglands of the upper Barrow basin. Within this broad geographical context the town and its immediate surroundings may be seen as a regional entity, agriculturally productive in itself but bounded by a discontinuous girdle of physiographic units each less intensively settled, at least until recently, than the fertile lowlands among which they are set. The most clearly defined of these more negative zones lies to the west, where the peat bogs that lie across the approach to Monasterevin are backed by alluvial floodplains along the River Barrow and its tributaries. On the north Kildare is overlooked by several small hills of resistant grit, shale, sandstone, limestone and volcanic rock, among them Redhills, Dunmurry Hill, Carrickanearla and Grange Hill. To the east, stretching from the outskirts of the town to within two kilometres of the River Liffey, is the Curragh of Kildare, a 2,000-hectare spread of rolling pasture devoid of permanent habitation for most of medieval and modern times. Southwards Maddenstown Bog, the King's Bog and Monavullagh divide the Kildare region from the bog-free country between Kilcullen and Athy. None of these peripheral features imposes a serious barrier to communication. A circle drawn at a two-kilometre radius from Kildare Cathedral intersects no less than twelve roads converging towards the town, four from the north-west quadrant, two from the north-east, three from the south-east and three from the south-west (Map 1). Each of these roads has found an easy passage across the regional boundary zone defined above.

The site of Kildare is a ridge which rises some 110 metres above sea level, though only 10 to 15 metres above the adjacent lowlands, and which drains principally into the Boherbaun River and thence to the River Barrow. The ridge trends approximately from west-north-west to east-south-east, the northern flank being markedly steeper than the southern. Its crest generally diminishes in height from west to east, with a reversal of slope in the town that produces two distinct hill-tops separated by a saddle. The westerly summit includes the site of the cathedral and round tower; the other, at about the same height, occupies a small enclosure known as the Park and is crowned by the tower of Kildare Castle; the saddle lies at the junction of Station Road with the Market Square. It is this elevated situation, with its variety of perspectives near and far, uphill and down, that seems to leave the strongest imprint on the mind of every visitor.

* * *

The early history of Kildare is full of obscurity, but four points are generally agreed upon.¹ The first is the notable degree of continuity that links the pagan and early Christian periods. The only alternative name for the site (Druim Criaig) makes no reference to any settlement but simply denotes the ridge on which the town is built. But in the name Cell Dara (church of the oak tree), recorded in an annalist's entry for A.D. 520, the oak is thought to have marked a pagan shrine, and the same explanation has been applied to the tradition of a perpetual sacred fire recorded here by Giraldus Cambrensis in the twelfth century. St Brigid, accepted by all historians as founder of the church, nunnery and monastery at Kildare, may have begun her career as a priestess of this pagan religion. Secondly, Kildare emerged at an early date as a central place with far-reaching territorial connections. In pre-Christian times, to judge from placename evidence, it had strong links with the north-midland kingdom of greater Uí Failgi. When Christianity became dominant, Kildare began (in the words of a modern authority) to claim

the sort of overlordship which Armagh achieved slightly later. The bishop of Kildare is the 'chief bishop (*archiepiscopus*) of the Irish bishops', and the abbess is 'the abbess whom all the abbesses of the Irish venerate'. Kildare is 'a great metropolitan city', and Brigit's *paruchia* extends over all Ireland, 'from sea to sea'. Even the lawyers of Armagh, when they drew up Patrick's claim to jurisdiction, did not dispute Brigit's supremacy in Leinster.²

A third important *leitmotiv* is the connection between religion and politics at Kildare. The seventh-century writer Cogitosus described the town as the treasury of kings (below, appendix A): these were the Uí Dúnlainge (a dynasty occupying the eastern part of modern Co. Kildare), who also became kings of Leinster and who for many years kept the abbacy of Kildare under their own control and in their own family. It was in the early tenth century that one of these kings followed a victory in battle by bringing his captives to Kildare, suggesting that he had some kind of base there. Fourthly, this intermeshing of ecclesiastical and secular functions is thought to have made early Christian Kildare exceptionally rich, well-built, populous, attractive to visitors, economically vigorous, and in general distinguished by urban or 'proto-urban' characteristics. Among the latter was the 'street of the stone step' (or stone pavement, or stone terrace) where a comb-maker is said to have had his workshop in A.D. 909. Twelfth-century coins from a Dublin mint, found under the round tower, confirm the impression of a pre-Norman secular life embracing trade as well as agriculture; and Giraldus applied the word *cives* (townsfolk) to the people he found at Kildare in the early stages of the Anglo-Norman invasion.

In short, for historians seeking early signs of urban life in the Gaelic world, Kildare is among the most persuasive witnesses. Yet very little of this persuasiveness is evident on the modern map. A possible exception is the unusually large number of apparently ancient roads approaching the town (two of them following the crest of the Kildare ridge), but even these could arguably be assigned to Anglo-Norman times or to any other period before the advent of large-scale map making in the seventeenth century. In the town itself the only conspicuous marks of early Christian occupation — church, round tower, high cross (Fig. 1) — are common to many other Irish ecclesiastical sites, some of which would make little claim to proto-urbanity. In fact the whole of the present cathedral post-dates the twelfth century, though it would be over-sceptical to deny that this is the most probable location for the wooden church described by Cogitosus, especially in view of its proximity to the round tower. The latter is mainly of twelfth-century construction with an older base. The cross is a plain structure reunited in recent times with its ancient pedestal on the south-west side of the cathedral. In a more sheltered position slightly to the north (first mapped by the Ordnance Survey on the basis of nineteenth-century tradition) stood the now-vanished 'Fire House' in which a flame lit by St Brigid is said to have been kept continuously burning until the early thirteenth century and later to have been rekindled. Presumably the nuns lived nearby. The ridge-top graveyard containing these four sacred sites is of irregular polygonal shape, approximating to an oval or at least to a rectangle with rounded corners.

Roughly circular or elliptical enclosures are a common feature of early Irish monastic topography. Another such feature is an outer ditch or bank enclosing a ring of less exclusively sacred land, outside the churchyard, in which stood the dwelling houses of both religious and laity. Some ecclesiastical settlements apparently possessed more than one of these outer boundaries, concentrically arranged and separating different degrees of secularity. In many old Irish towns coeval with Kildare the outer ditches, though no longer physically extant, are

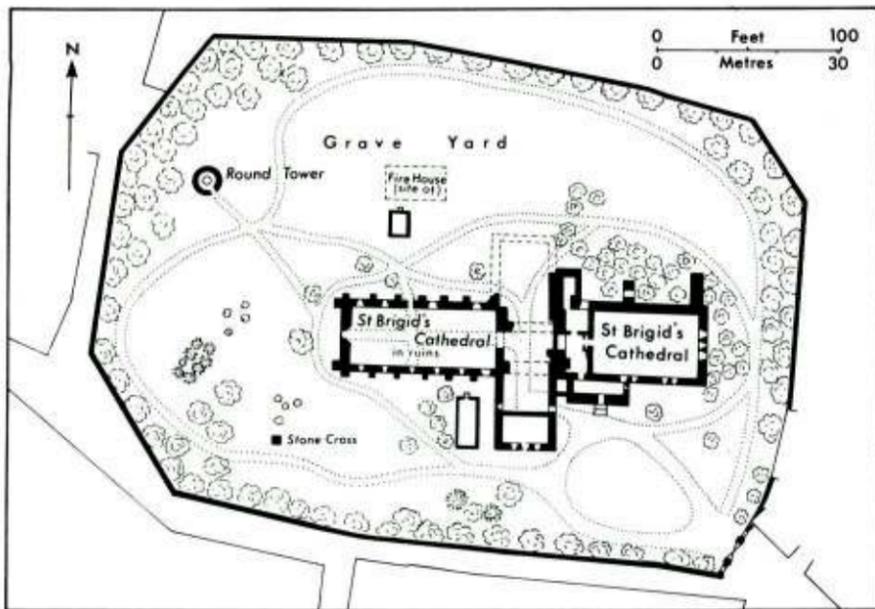


Fig. 1 Kildare cathedral churchyard, 1872 (OS).

thought to have influenced the present courses of streets, lanes, walls, field banks and property boundaries. Scholars have found several such curvilinear elements in modern maps of Kildare (Fig. 2). One is Priest's Lane to the north-west of the cathedral, another is the southernmost stretch of Station Road, formerly Nugent Street. These two arcs account for about one third of a hypothetical circumference. On the same line, White Abbey Road is perhaps explicable as a continuation of Priest's Lane, but unfortunately its course is straight rather than curved, and might just as well be taken for part of a north-south axis of movement across the Druim Criag ridge, independent of the ecclesiastical foundation and possibly pre-dating it. Another suggested arc of boundary appears on modern maps close behind the houses (now demolished) on the south side of Claregate Street. Apart from being at about the right distance from the central focus, this feature also corresponds with a steep drop separating the postulated enclosure from lower ground outside. Its deviation from a strictly circular or elliptical form may be attributed to the effect of later building operations.

* * *

Altogether these alignments, as combined in a recent reconstruction by Leo Swan, imply an enclosure of about 280 metres in diameter with an area of about six hectares.³ That was not particularly large by the standards of early Christian Ireland, and smaller than might be expected of Cogitosus's 'great metropolitan city'. It also brings Kildare's twelve approach roads awkwardly close together where they crossed the perimeter, though this objection could be partly met by making some of them join before they entered the town, two such ancient forks being conceivably represented in the modern road pattern near the Carmelite church and beside the Railway Hotel. In any case, there are several places outside Swan's hypothetical enclosure where alternative or additional outer boundaries may be sought. Of possible relevance in choosing among them is a contrast in modern tenorial topography between the two sides of the Station Road-Priest's Lane perimeter discussed by Swan. Outside his boundary, many tenements have preserved a strip-like form suggestive of Anglo-Norman influence.

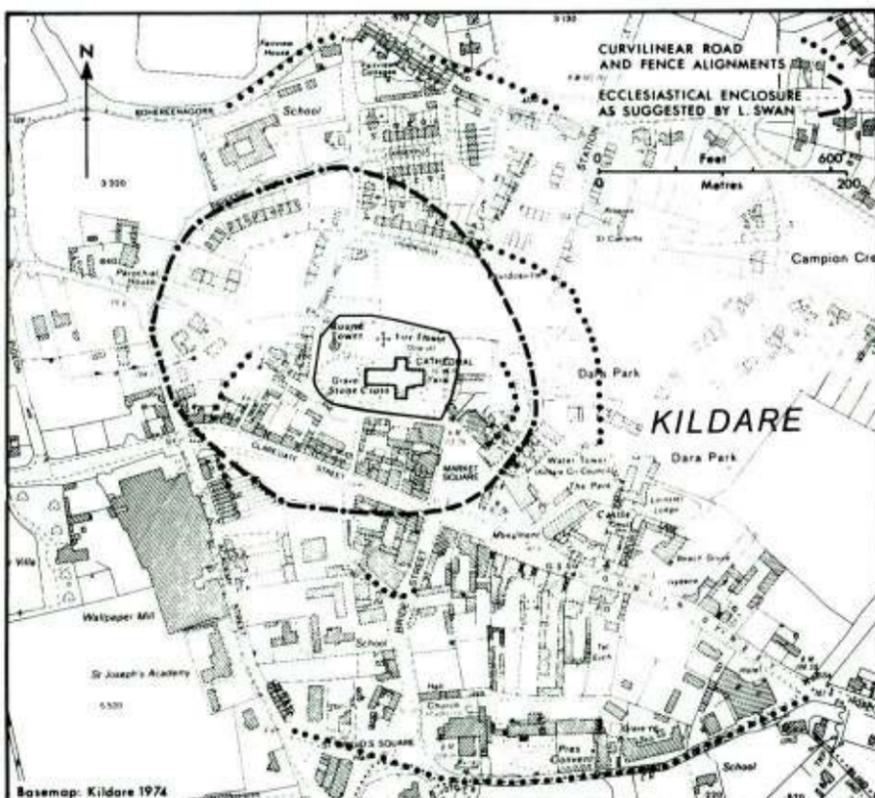


Fig. 2 Curvilinear road and fence alignments (KEM; OS; Swan; see note 3).

Nearer the churchyard this tendency is absent, hinting perhaps that among the various alternatives Swan's is the line of deepest historical significance. At the same time the possibility of a second outer ring at Kildare is not to be dismissed, for it was the 'suburbs' that St Brigid is reported by Cogitosus to have marked out with a clear boundary. Allowance must also be made for some contemporary habitation outside all the enclosures. The nuns and monks are known to have possessed their own watermill, for instance, yet the nearest likely mill-site is at Tully more than a kilometre from the cathedral and well beyond the limits of all the circles considered above.

No doubt some kind of street lay-out was discernible in the most densely inhabited parts of early Christian Kildare, but in the absence of documentary confirmation other than the single tenth-century phrase already quoted, and also (as yet) of archaeological evidence, its form must remain entirely conjectural. In speculations on this subject much depends on the number of entrances believed to have pierced the original inner enclosure. Was it one only, as in the present-day churchyard of Kildare, and as reputedly in early Christian Armagh? One at each of the cardinal compass points, as in some historians' reconstructions of a typical monastic city? Or as many gateways as there were converging country roads? Apart from the modern entry to the graveyard, one possible approach to St Brigid's church was eastwards from Fire Castle Lane. Another, from the south, followed the course of Bride Street and Bangup Lane — the latter a difficult street to explain in terms of post-medieval traffic requirements. In addition, two northern routes, closer together than those of today, can be reconstructed by assuming different positions for the ancestors of Station Road and Chapel Hill: in each case there is a modern field boundary (east of the present Chapel Hill and west of the present Station Road) that might be thought to mark the original road.

The kind of radial street pattern just described is observable in several Irish towns of similar origin to Kildare. But as well as streets of early Christian origin there may also have been irregular open spaces among the buildings and garden plots, such as appear for example on Richard Bartlett's picture-plan of late Elizabethan Armagh.⁴ In the course of urban growth such spaces would be expected to disappear, or to be compressed into narrow pathways through the encroachments of nearby householders. A very late example at Kildare is the patch of open ground between Fire Castle Lane and Chapel Hill which existed in the mid-eighteenth century but which was colonised by houses and gardens in the course of the next forty years. (It is not claimed that the area in question had been continuously empty since early Christian times: the north-west sector of the town has suffered too many vicissitudes for any such long-term inference to be convincing.) Among these open spaces, if they existed, the most interesting is the precursor of the present Market Square. In several Irish towns originating as pre-Norman ecclesiastical communities the modern market place has been found to lie east or south-east of the ancient church.⁵ This bias doubtless reflects a similar tendency in the location of churchyard entrances. It may also point to a precocious development of quasi-urban commercial activity, though the market place presumably appeared later than the kind of concentric enclosure attributable to the pioneers of monasticism. In Kildare it may have been market traffic that prompted the convergence of Station Road and Bride Street on a focus that lay outside the inner monastic circle and perhaps athwart the circumference of an outer circle. If so, these streets are likely to be later than the radial elements already distinguished: how much later, it is impossible to say.

* * *

However we visualise the exact sequence of events, some degree of morphological as well as functional continuity between early Christian and medieval Kildare is probable enough. Despite many attacks by the Vikings⁶ St Brigid's fire was still famous for its inextinguishability when Giraldus came to Ireland in 1183.⁷ Her nunnery remained in being until the sixteenth century, long after its male counterpart had dwindled away, though not necessarily on its original site. At the dissolution of the monasteries in 1540 its buildings are known to have included a castle that was said to be suitable for a farmer's use, and this building could perhaps be identified with the Fire Castle named on eighteenth-century maps outside and to the west of the cathedral graveyard. A 'fire castle' (no modern writer has explained the name)⁸ may mark some supposed connection with the Brigittine fire house about a hundred metres distant. Perhaps the connection was genuine: a fire can be moved without being quenched.

Meanwhile the church and its immediate surroundings could be expected to change their character when Kildare became the centre of a large diocese at the synod of Ráith Bressail in 1111.⁹ The synod's choice was itself a tribute to the memory of St Brigid. To the Normans Kildare offered other, less spiritual attractions. Strongbow found its hill-top site a convenient base of operations as early as 1172,¹⁰ and his successors seem to have had high hopes of the town's accessibility to the rich plains of east-central Ireland, a region that was now to acquire a network of fully-fledged medieval towns as well as numerous nucleated villages. Kildare Castle is said to have been built by William Marshall,

earl of Pembroke and lord of Leinster, and in his time or soon afterwards the town took its place in the Anglo-Norman settlement hierarchy as both manor and borough. Perhaps more significant as a measure of perceived importance, it also gave its name first to a shire and later (in 1316) to an earldom whose holders, the FitzGerald family, kept possession of most of the land in the town until well into the twentieth century. Medieval Kildare was twice chosen as meeting place for the Irish parliament. In 1331 its burgage rents amounted to £9 9s 8d, which some scholars, reckoning one shilling per burgage, believe to imply a burgher household population of 945 persons, capable of occupying as large a built-up area as the eighteenth-century town.¹¹

Such a community must obviously have left its mark on the adjacent countryside. Here, as for instance at Dalkey, Co. Dublin,¹² numerous seventeenth- and eighteenth-century names with the prefix 'Farran' (land) may refer to the units in some kind of pre-modern field system, and the fragmentation characteristic of medieval land holding may have survived in the complex pattern of church land recorded in and around the post-medieval town. This arrangement had undoubtedly suffered considerable modification, both physically and tenurially, before the Kildare landscape began to figure on large-scale maps; but some of the gently curving boundaries on those maps are probably of Anglo-Norman or earlier origin and may show the edges of former plough strips.

As a corporate entity, the typical Anglo-Norman borough town in Ireland showed two main morphological differences from its 'proto-urban' forerunners. One novelty was its strong peripheral defences, most commonly in the form of a stone wall following the outline of the area occupied by houses and gardens. The other was a relatively simple system of more or less straight streets with rows of house plots running perpendicular to them. Both changes seem likely to have brought a rather dramatic transformation of whatever lay-out had preceded the Anglo-Norman occupation, though there is no Irish town where this process can be documented or otherwise elucidated from contemporary records without the help of inferences too uncertain to satisfy the sceptic. Certainly the incorporation of Kildare as a borough is uncommemorated by any kind of topographical statement from its earliest burgesses or their lord. Nor can we expect much help from the kind of analogical argument applicable to the early ecclesiastical enclosures, for in a Norman town there seems to have been no single preconceived shape to take the place of the monastic circle. In short, direct evidence is confined to surviving medieval buildings (of which there are very few, and those probably quite untypical of their time), supplemented by deductions from the physical and tenurial structure of the town as represented in the earliest reliable surveys.

At Kildare the only reasonably well-authenticated new Anglo-Norman site of obvious morphological significance is that of the castle (Fig. 3). The thirteenth-century Grey Abbey (Franciscan) and White Abbey (Carmelite) were too far from the main built-up area to throw much light on its development. Their detached situations might be seen as proof that landholding in the spaces between them and the town was too minutely divided for a friary to establish itself there, though at the Grey Abbey the presence of surface water seems a good enough location factor by itself. The castle in 1331 consisted of four towers with various out-offices. Its later history is almost completely unrecorded. One seventeenth-century source refers to Kildare's castles in the plural,¹³ but today the only example of castellation in the town is in a single tower north of the Market Square and east of the Park. Superficially this resembles the fortified town houses of Ardee, Carlingford, Youghal and elsewhere, with the difference that in Kildare the tower stands more than fifty metres from the nearest street. Moreover, the alignment of present-day boundary walls in its vicinity suggests that the Park alongside which the tower now stands originated as the north-eastern half of a polygonal bailey or bawn with distinctive bastions (perhaps added in post-medieval times) at its northern and south-western corners. Much of this polygon can also be identified on eighteenth-century maps, one of which also records a second 'old tower' on the same perimeter and another a small artificial-looking hillock that could have served as a Norman motte. It is hard to interpret this curious morphological complex as anything but the outline of William Marshall's castle. From the Park there are downward slopes in every direction — including the west, where whatever remained of an old ecclesiastical enclosure could now act as part of the castle defences, reversing its previous tactical orientation. The castle clearly marks an eastward shift in the town's centre of gravity, though this process might be thought to have begun earlier with the emergence of the market place.

In 1515 the borough of Kildare was authorised to build itself a town wall. This in itself is no proof that the authority in question was actually exercised in 1515 or at any other time, but in 1642 the town walls were twice mentioned in an account of a recently-fought battle, and three town gates were named (with no clear reference to a wall) in a survey of 1674. Of the three names, the only one with *prima facie* historical implications is Clare Gate, for the Clare family preceded the FitzGerald family as lords of Kildare in the thirteenth century. It seems just as probable,

however, that Clare in this case is a corruption of some other word, and in any event a single name can hardly be taken as proof that Kildare was fortified as early as the thirteenth century.

No relic of either wall or gates is now known to survive, and the locations given in the 1674 survey are far from easy to interpret (below, appendix B). Claregate survives as a street name, and it can hardly be doubted that Ellis Gate and White Gate were somewhere in Station Road and Dublin Street respectively. Their exact positions must remain conjectural, however, and so must any attempt to trace the rest of the town defences by the historian's usual method of joining up whichever yard and garden walls produce the simplest and most convincing outline (Fig. 4). The only other clue is the eighteenth-century name Black Ditch, now Claemore Road, but this often occurs in a purely rural context with no implication of a premeditated defence system. Perhaps the most that can be said with confidence about Kildare's medieval perimeter is that it is likely to have included parts of both castle and churchyard walls.

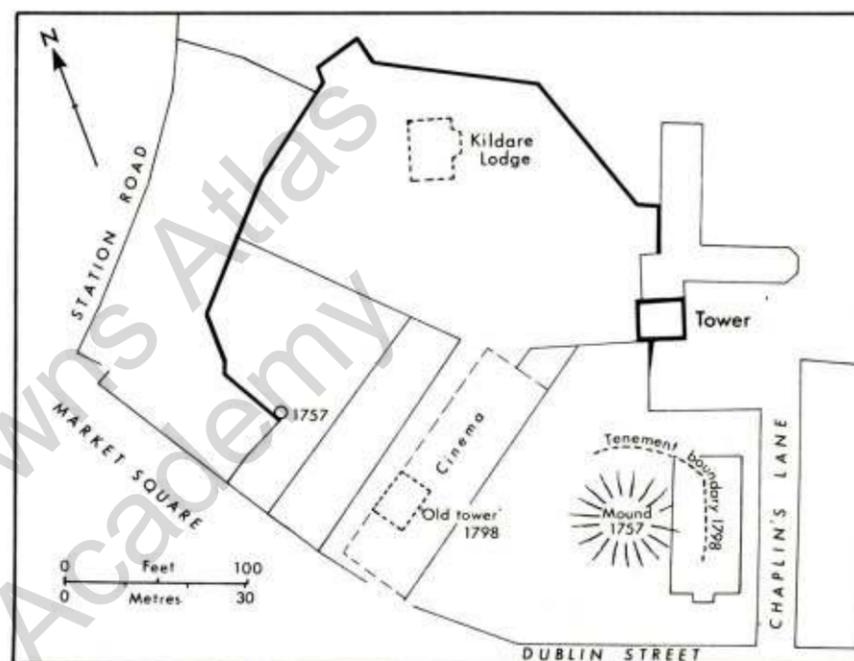


Fig. 3 Probable site of Kildare castle (KEM; OS; Urb. Arch. Survey).

Within the urban enclosure there seems little reason to doubt that Claregate Street already existed in the middle ages. Together with Dublin Street and the south side of the Market Square it formed the kind of linear axis along which the majority of Anglo-Norman towns appear to have crystallised. Slicing as it does across the outer rim of the putative pre-Norman monastic enclosure it may even represent an act of medieval town planning, perhaps with the participation of the church authorities who in the eighteenth century still owned land on both sides of the street (Fig. 5). There is also a hint of planning in the straight sides of Claregate Street, and in the rectangularity of the blocks and tenements to the north of it. The only other comment to be made on the chronology of Kildare's medieval morphogenesis is that the laying-out of urban-style house plots in the town was probably later than the construction of the castle. The reason why the long strip holdings to the south of Dublin Street and the Market Square are not matched on the north side of the street may be that the castle bailey left no room for them. Had the castle encroached on existing plots, one might expect some mention of the fact when William Marshall was accused of building his fortress on church land without first obtaining permission.¹⁴

* * *

The foregoing paragraphs are inevitably speculative, and unfortunately the lack of morphological documentation at Kildare extends through the sixteenth century and into the seventeenth. The town is known to have suffered badly in Queen Elizabeth's wars, and on one occasion in 1600 it was said to be 'altogether disinhabited'.¹⁵ In principle the subsequent period of recovery has as much claim to morphological innovation as the middle ages. For example the large size and triangular form of the market 'square' might credibly be dated to the seventeenth century, as has been done in certain other Irish villages,¹⁶ and explained by the removal of buildings (or the ruins of buildings) from a three-cornered street block. It is not until the making of the first accurate map of Kildare in the eighteenth century that such uncertainties can finally be put to rest. By that time the town was already giving an impression of inactivity and even decline. Indeed its post-medieval image has often been that of a relict community preoccupied with past glories and lamenting its present state.

One factor in this change of fortunes was the reformation. Kildare's monastic houses fell into decay after 1540, and as a centre of protestant worship the cathedral (now also becoming grievously dilapidated) served no more than a tiny fraction of the people in either its diocese or its parish. By the middle seventeenth century the bishop's palace was even

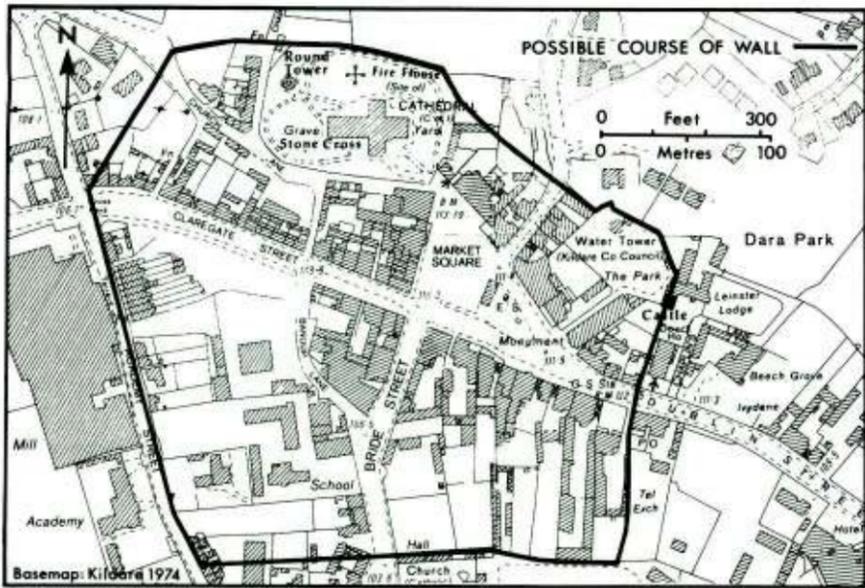


Fig. 4 Conjectural outline of the town wall.

more ruinous: later it was to survive only in the name of a field north of the cathedral. Post-reformation bishops were all absentees, and so were most of the other clergy nominally attached to the cathedral. Much land in and about the town remained ecclesiastical property until the late nineteenth century, but by that time it must have been hard to imagine a place with less of the atmosphere of Anthony Trollope's *Barchester*.

The course of secular history was equally undistinguished. In the late middle ages Kildare had stood aside from the main routes connecting Dublin with the towns of Munster. Many travellers of that period bound for south-west Ireland, in no hurry to leave the shelter of the English Pale, must have preferred to pass through Naas and Kilkullen; and the continuing threat to law and order from the Irish inhabitants of Leix and North Kilkenny had long prevented the stabilisation of any direct route across the Barrow and between the Slieve Bloom and Castlecomer uplands. In these circumstances it was natural for Kildare to lose its administrative functions as shire town to Naas, and in a more peaceful age it never developed enough vitality to reclaim them. The survey of

1674 records fifteen cabins on the earl of Kildare's land in the town (with 'several' more in the suburb west of Clare Gate), two 'little dwellings', and only seven houses, two of which appear to have been ruined. Admittedly three of the houses advertised themselves as inns, but before the end of the century Kildare could be described by John Dunton as 'a poor place not lying in any road and not having any trade belonging to it'.¹⁷ This statement was not meant to be taken literally (a sentence later, Dunton mentions the hops, iron, salt and tobacco that were sold in the town) but it did serve to fix Kildare on a discouragingly low level in the author's mental hierarchy of central places — and in his mental hierarchy of roads, a judgement backed by several contemporary road maps.¹⁸

Without the presence in strength of either church or state, seventeenth-century Kildare had few residential advantages for men of wealth and name. It might have been expected to develop as an estate town, the castle giving way to a modern nobleman's mansion and park. But the earls of Kildare, lords of the manor since the fourteenth century, had many other locations to choose from, and seem always to have favoured either Maynooth at the northern end of the county or Kilkea in the south. One drawback of the town as an aristocratic showplace was the difficulty of replanning a landscape in which the manorial estate was so much interrupted by ecclesiastical property. Another was simply the absence of a river: most great houses of the new era had running water near at hand.

The industrial implications of this lack of water were equally serious. The medieval borough of Kildare, like the earlier monastic settlement, had more than once been credited with its own mill, but as before this must have been at some distance from the town itself. (Windmills were probably a later development, and not of much importance or long duration.) Perhaps it was no accident that the expansion of the Irish milling industries, from the middle of the eighteenth century, coincided with Kildare's descent through the league-table of Leinster towns.¹⁹ The only local industries of this period with any impact on urban morphology were blacksmith's work and malting; other manufactures, none of which drew comment from any visiting author except the making of felt hats,²⁰ were of the type carried on in ordinary dwelling houses.

* * *

The earliest detailed map of the town, made for the twentieth earl of Kildare in 1757 by John Rocque (Map 4 and appendix C), is not quite early enough to catch the lowest point in its long post-medieval

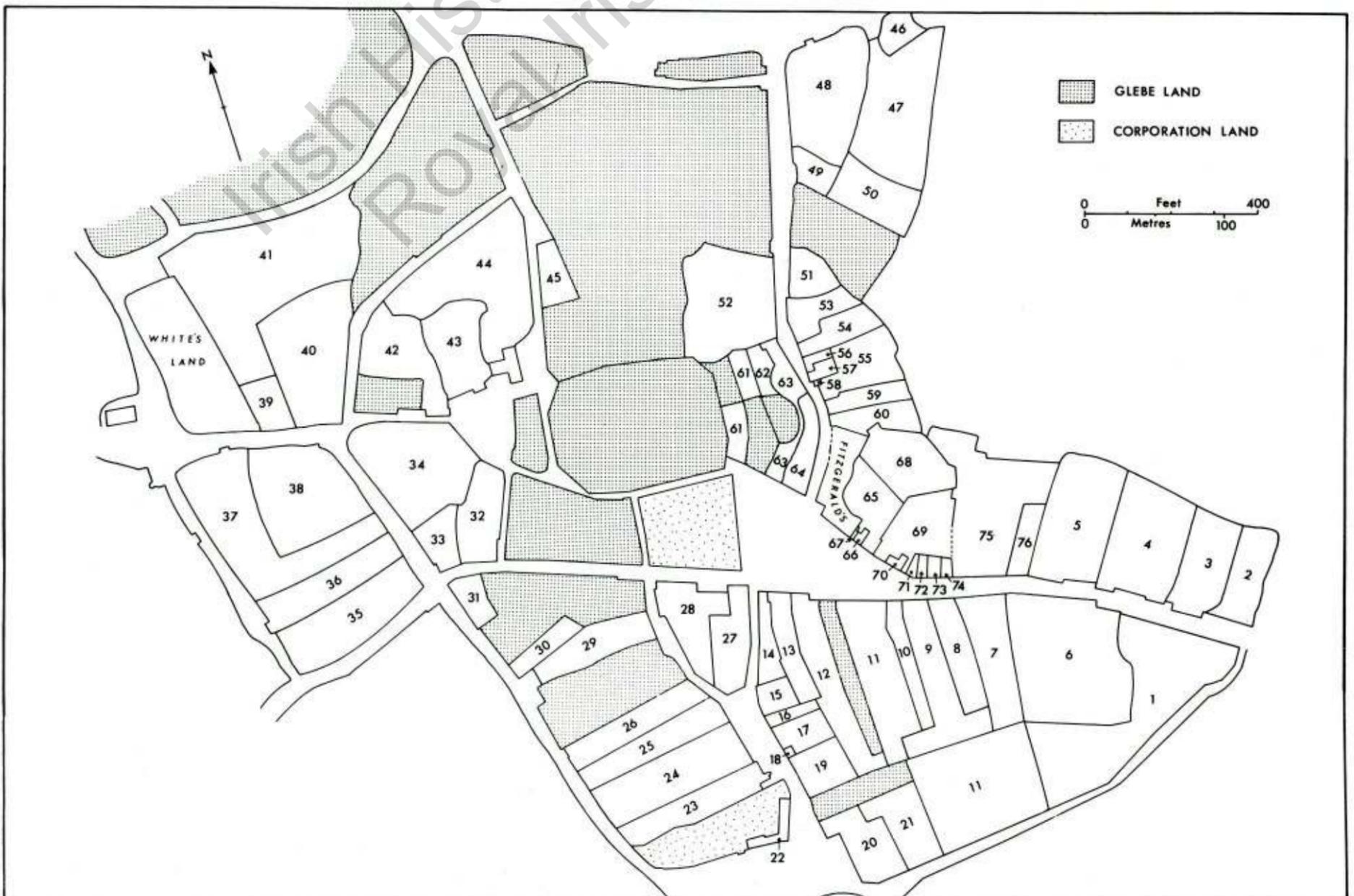


Fig. 5 Tenements in Rocque's survey, 1757 (KEM).

depression, but a map of fifty years earlier would probably not have looked very different. Rocque throws little light on the morphogenetic problems posed by earlier periods; the extensive and irregular street system shown on his map is virtually that of the present day (apart from some later widening of streets and the addition of twentieth-century housing estates) and the same degree of similarity appears in many of the boundaries behind the streets.

Among the features of 1757 not previously recorded were two marginal street-junctions, in the north at Shraud and in the south at St Brigid's Square, both studded with small cabins and looking as if they might have been taken over by squatters on vacant strips or furlongs in an open field, and both recorded in at least one later survey as common land. Outlying cabin suburbs other than ribbon suburbs were by no means unusual in the Ireland of this period — there are good examples in Rocque's map of Kilkenny — but no historian seems to have discussed them. At Kildare both examples were in lowlying situations within reach of ground water. St Brigid's Square was also the site of a pound and may already have been functioning as a fair green when Rocque surveyed it.

Elsewhere in 1757 an impression of shrinkage was given by numerous almost empty peripheral streets and lanes which played no essential part in the local road system — and which still lend a touch of melancholy to Kildare's suburban ambience. Especially notable was the absence of buildings on all sides of the churchyard except the south-east. The square, by contrast, with its market house and well, was clearly the effective centre of the town in Rocque's day. Most of the householders affluent enough to have their own out-offices lived around it, and it abutted on to properties owned by all four of the local landlords — the earl of Kildare (later to become duke of Leinster), the church, the borough, and another member of the Fitzgerald family. The tolsel or townhall recorded in 1674 cannot have been far away: Rocque does not mention this building, but then the only estate he professed to be surveying in detail was Lord Kildare's.

Although the earl owned most of the town, he kept very little of it in his own hands. Of his 22 head-tenants in Kildare, most of them local merchants or farmers, four held more than two-thirds of the estate's urban street frontage. This concentration of land holding can be paralleled in other Irish towns but has so far received little attention from scholars: at first sight it might seem to support the notion of a traumatic hiatus separating the modern period from the medieval, for in the middle ages historical orthodoxy would presumably envisage a wider distribution of burgage property among its holders. Whatever its antecedents, the significance of tenurial inequality in the eighteenth century was social rather than topographical: the larger holdings were all made up of scattered parcels, and only one complete street block, between Bangup Lane and Bride Street, was held by a single tenant. Scope for urban replanning was evidently limited.

* * *

Between the mid-eighteenth and late nineteenth centuries Kildare continued to survive as a small service centre, filling the gap left by

Rathangan, Monasterevin, Kilcullen Bridge, Athy and Newbridge but showing remarkably few signs of growth or prosperity. Many houses in the central area were rebuilt, out-offices became more numerous, and there was a measure of infilling along the main axis, the later tenements and sub-tenements often being identifiable as both shorter and narrower than the earlier (Maps 4–6, Fig. 5). Meanwhile, on the outskirts of the town, old cabins disappeared almost as fast as new ones were built, with no clear locational trend except perhaps a continued decline in the north-west. Visitors' impressions at this period were not very favourable. The most censorious, as with many Irish towns, came in 1845 from a somewhat jaundiced author who wrote for the *Parliamentary gazetteer*:

The town itself, as seen from the approaches to it, sends up such a tufting of trees, and such a seeming museum of architecture, as to appear a fascinating feature in the landscape . . . but on being entered, it dashes to the dust the hopes which it had excited, grins ghastly derision on the enthusiasm of the literary visitor, folds round him clouds of offensive odours, and huddles itself up in so squalid and tawdry a dress of cabin-masonry, grotesquely patched with deformed and clumsy remains of pretending ancient architecture, as instantly to convince him that it owes all its interest to the tales and associations of history, and to the mind's power of abstracting its architectural monuments from connection with rubbish, and juxtaposition to the filth and crudities of a commonplace Irish village . . . It is neither watched, lighted, nor under any sort of efficient surveillance; it possesses not a drop of water nearer than a mile, except through one pump, or from showers of rain; and, though less haggard and less declining than formerly, and exactly situated to command the gains of the profuse periodical expenditure of money on the Curragh [racecourse], it is never likely to rise to the possession of either tolerable neatness or comparative prosperity.²¹

In one objectively verifiable sense Kildare must be admitted to have lost ground. At the union it had surrendered the right to elect members of parliament, and after 1840 it was no longer a municipal borough. From now on, its only urban privilege was that of holding markets and fairs, and its only public services were the post office, a police station, petty and quarter sessions, and the county infirmary (Fig. 6).

Despite the lack of spectacular progress at this period, several kinds of change were afoot. When the road from Naas to Maryborough was turnpiked in 1731, Kildare found itself on the main route from Dublin to the south-west. In 1784 it became a post town and the mail coaches, together with other through traffic, were soon to be described as the source of its principal trade.²² The result was a further strengthening of the Dublin Street—Claregate Street axis relative to the other streets, and an increasing polarisation of this axis due to the influence of the Curragh racecourse and the visitors from Dublin who frequented it.²³ Although organised horse racing on the Curragh had begun in the seventeenth century, it was not until c. 1760 that the sport left any lasting impression on the town, first with the 'Curragh Coffee House' and later with the headquarters of the Turf Club of Ireland on the same site in Dublin Street. By now the area east of the Market Square was asserting a degree of social superiority, later to be confirmed by the arrival of 'establishment' institutions such as the court house and a Church of Ireland school (Map 2). Not being divided on the conventional 'burgage' plan of narrow plots perpendicular to the street,

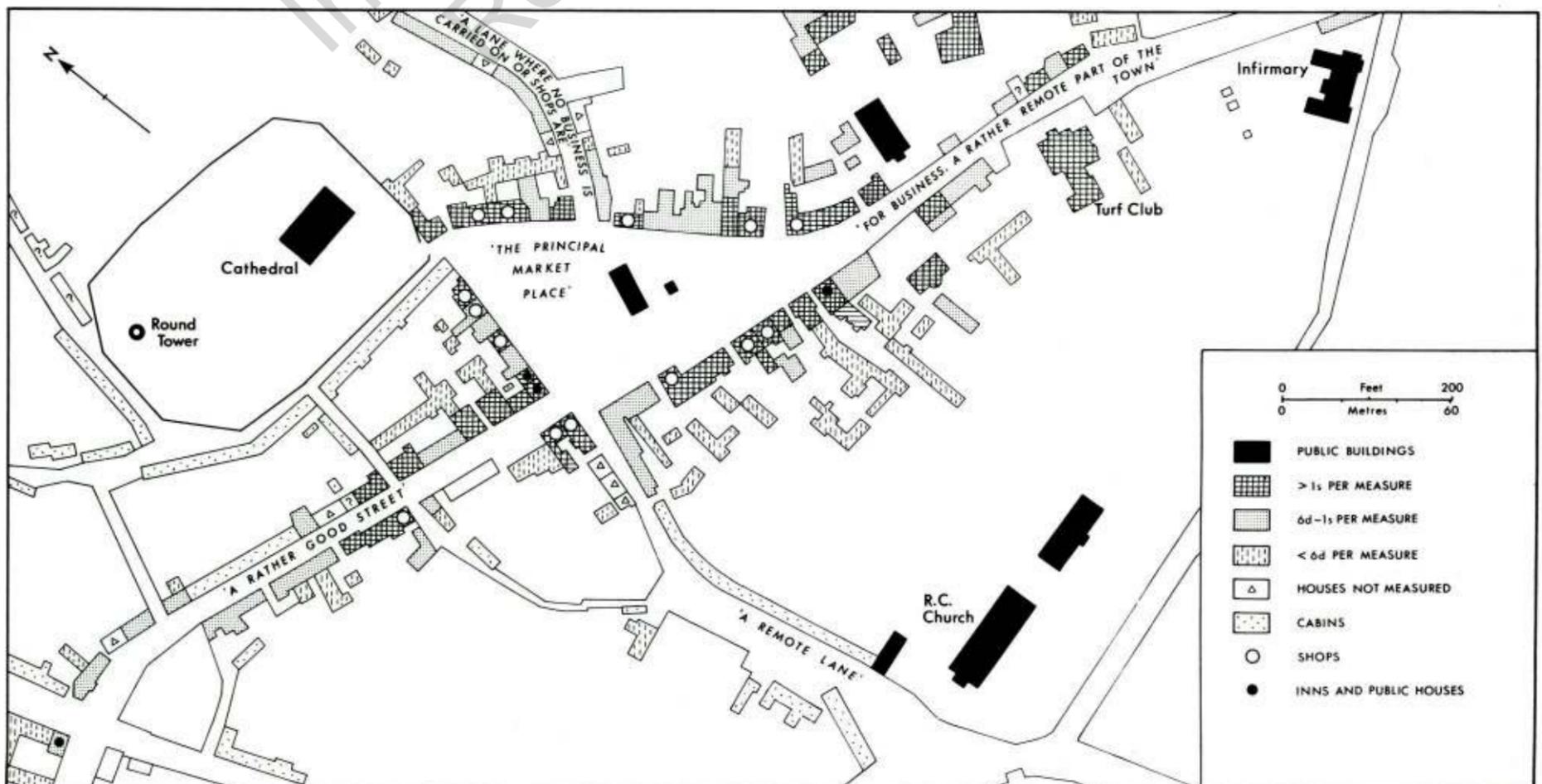


Fig. 6 Use and valuation of buildings, 1841 (Val. 1).

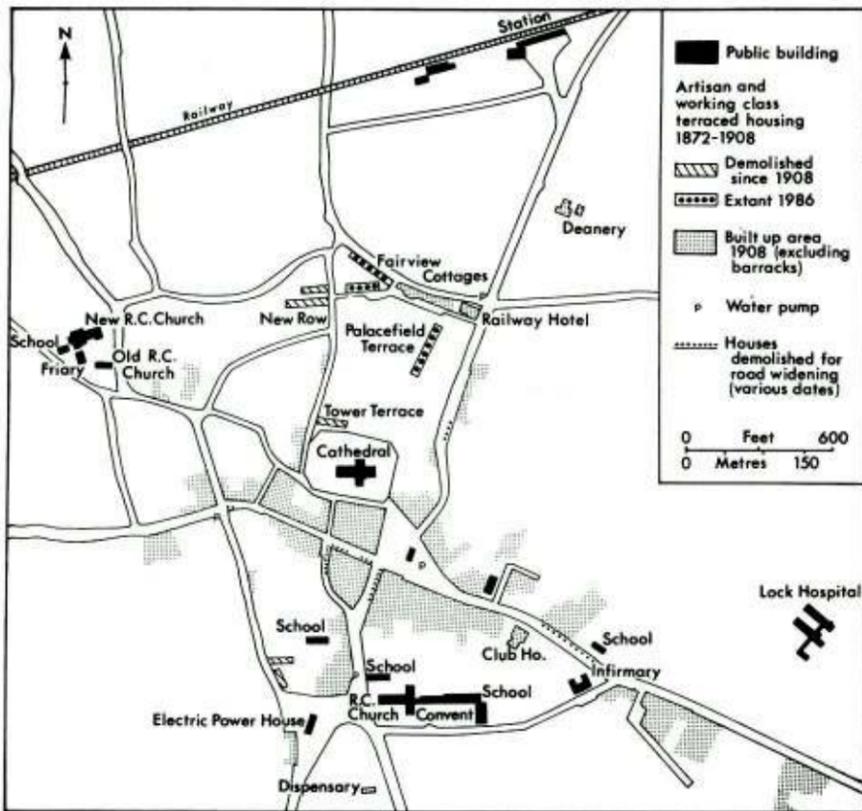


Fig. 7 Aspects of late 19th-century development.

the north side of Dublin Street left room for several unusually spacious gardens. On Rocque's map the old castle bawn was already occupied by a large free-standing house, later famous as a residence of Lord Edward Fitzgerald. To the east, the lodge beside the castle and the house later called Beech Grove (originally also a 'lodge') completed a small knot of gentlemen's residences set back from the road. The distinctive character of this area owed much to the way in which Richard Heatherington, one of the earl's principal mid-eighteenth-century tenants, had chosen to develop his unusually compact and strategically placed holding, but across the street it was matched by the handsome town house named on the modern ordnance map as Lisle, the only other dwelling to boast a front garden in the main streets of late eighteenth-century Kildare.

Apart from racing and pasturage the main use of the Curragh was as a military training ground, especially after the erection of extensive barracks there in 1855. The barracks brought more trade to local shops,²⁴ and more worshippers to the protestant congregation, helping in time to justify the lengthy restoration programme begun at the cathedral in 1870.²⁵ The new importance of the Curragh was not universally welcomed. Schoolchildren from the barracks, and from the local horse-training establishments, were said to fall below the town's average in both work and deportment,²⁶ and worse was to come with the advent of the Lock Hospital, provided by the government near the main Dublin Road for 'unfortunate and fallen women, who frequent the Curragh, and this neighbourhood'.²⁷ Hospital Street, as this stretch of the road was called (uninvitingly to modern ears), did not maintain the high residential status achieved in Dublin Street nearer the town centre.

Architecturally as in other ways the most consequential change to affect nineteenth-century Kildare was the new tolerance accorded to the Roman Catholic church. In penal times the only place of catholic worship was a T-shaped chapel in a remote part of the town north-west of the cathedral churchyard, its location now defined by commemorative tablets. In 1829 the Presentation order of nuns established a convent on what had been the largest undeveloped tenement within the town's network of streets. The room available for expansion on this site was quickly taken up, first by a new catholic church (replacing the eighteenth-century chapel) and subsequently by both male and female national schools. Later another order of nuns was to enlarge this southside 'catholic sector'²⁸ by taking over the infirmary after the county authorities had ceased to finance it. The presence of a new church must have helped to improve the social standing of the nearby street-junction, previously known only for its fairs, as well as causing it to be renamed St Brigid's Square. Meanwhile the Carmelite order, in a conscious gesture of topographic revivalism, had acquired the site of the old White Abbey (allegedly without the knowledge or consent of the head landlord, Sir Erasmus Burrows)²⁹ and in 1889 their small chapel gave way to a magnificent gothic church whose 'competitive spire'³⁰ has subsequently dominated the Kildare townscape, albeit from a peripheral situation.

Apart from creating some jobs for its own staff, the railway made little difference to Kildare. The cost of carriage from Dublin continued to exceed the cost from Dublin to the western edge of the county, despite the shorter distance, as the railway company sought to compete with water transport by offering lower rates at Monasterevin.³¹ For the Kildare consumer, the railway brought the shops of Dublin (and indeed all the facilities of the outside world) into keener rivalry with local traders,³² and to that extent did something to increase the residential

attractions of the road connecting town and station. Besides being used by local people, Kildare railway station was a link between the west and south-west of Ireland and the line via Kilkenny to Waterford and this eventually helped to inspire the construction of the Railway Hotel, a massive redbrick structure in eye-catching disharmony with nearby Shraud and indeed with most buildings in the remainder of the town. Otherwise the main effect of railway transport was the removal of the fair green from St Brigid's Square to a field north of Shraud, near the station.

* * *

The last notable influence on nineteenth-century Kildare was the impulse to Irish urban reform that began gathering momentum in the 1870s. In this sphere the lack of any municipal governing body for the town after 1840 was a serious handicap. So was the continued division of the built-up area among several different landlords, including a number of new owner-occupiers of houses which up to c. 1870 had belonged to the church. One of the duke of Leinster's contributions to the nineteenth-century town (there were few others) was to allow some widening of Dublin Street, Bride Street and Claregate Street by the removal of awkwardly placed houses (Fig. 7). The prevailing difficulties towards the end of the century, however, were not so much traffic control as water supply, sewage and housing, all of them exacerbated by a more rapid rate of population growth than had been recorded for at least fifty years. Nothing had been done since the middle ages to mitigate the hydraulic disadvantages of living on a ridge-top except to provide a mechanical pump in the Market Square, financed by local subscriptions.³³ This was later augmented by three other pumps in various parts of the town, but the water supply remained dangerously insecure ('There is not a town in Ireland better prepared to receive cholera', it was ambiguously but alarmingly remarked in 1884)³⁴ until new water works were undertaken by the Naas rural sanitary authority with a loan from the local government board. The scheme, completed in 1886 and later extended, entailed damming the stream at Tully and using the power thus generated to pump Tully water into a storage tank on the roof of the Market House. Meanwhile the piping of sewage to cess-pits south of the town had also been put in hand, after a period in which 'sewage matter had either to get down through the subsoil or remain . . . until it was exhausted by the action of the atmosphere';³⁵ but it was not until 1900 that an adequate sewerage system was installed to the specifications of a civil engineer whose home address in Dublin Street, Kildare, gave him sufficient motive for doing a good job.³⁶

The main housing problems in late nineteenth-century Kildare were overcrowding and lack of privacy, particularly in cabins containing only one room, together with inadequate sanitation, drainage and refuse disposal, and the over-close proximity of the householders' pigs. The worst conditions, perhaps surprisingly, were in some of the housing on the extremities of the town, especially those of the north and west. Among the streets most complained of were Shraud, New Row, Chapel Hill, Church Lane ('a locality in Kildare well known to the petty sessions court', as a contemporary newspaper put it)³⁷, the neighbourhood known as Cross Keys at the west end of Claregate Street, and Hospital Street. Combating these evils with the aid of modern housing legislation was a slow process, and until the first world war the local government authority owned only two dwelling houses in the town, both of them still standing in 1986. Meanwhile several rows of superior cottages had been built by private landlords, most of them on sites that had been church property until the 1870s rather than on the Leinster estate where leases were regarded as too short to encourage building.³⁸ Five terraces of late nineteenth- or early twentieth-century labourers' or artisans' dwellings have since been removed (Fig. 7). Four remain, inconspicuous among the sprawl of post-world-war-two housing estates but all rapidly assuming the character of historical monuments. Elsewhere the humbler cabins of the pre-1870 era had begun to disappear, eventually to be

TABLE I

Housing in Kildare, 1901
(Source: Census returns)

District	Number of houses	Rooms per house	Percentage of houses with more than 3 persons per room	Number of out-offices per house
Market Square	28	8.2	7.1	3.9
Bride Street	17	5.8	5.9	0.5
Outer suburbs	28	5.5	7.1	3.2
Claregate Street	34	5.3	11.8	1.6
Station Road	9	3.8	11.1	0.9
Shraud	41	3.3	34.1	0.1
Barrack Street	60	3.0	31.7	0.7
Cross Keys	9	3.0	11.1	1.2
Church Lane	15	2.0	46.7	0.0
New Row	19	2.0	31.6	0.0
Pound Green	23	2.0	30.4	0.4
Chapel Hill	19	1.9	31.6	0.2

The district names are those used in the census returns, except that 'Kildare lands' (presumably that part of the townland of Kildare that was not included in any of the eleven other districts) has been renamed 'outer suburbs'. There is no map among the census records that shows the limits of these districts.

represented by only a few tufts of old thatch just visible under more modern roofing materials.

As in the central areas of most Irish towns, the two-storeyed house facades around the Market Square in c. 1900 were flat plaster-rendered rectangles with slate roofs ridged parallel to the street. Some houses had already been modified by purpose-built shop fronts. In others the main door was still surmounted by its traditional semi-circular fanlight and flanked by oblong sash windows. The most common decorative features were the simple but heavy-looking plaster cornices and upper-storey window cases of the more ambitious shops and licensed premises. Housefronts in this austere mode were still being built in the 1870s and many examples have survived, some showing little change, others wholly or partly refaced without disturbing their original proportions. Even at the end of the century Nolan's shop, on the north side of the Market Square, remained to all appearances the only architect-designed commercial building in Kildare. (The ornate Hibernian Bank did not materialise until 1903). The contrast between urban core and integuments thus depended on the height and size of buildings, and the number of their out-offices (Table 1), rather than on any basic difference of style. With its girdle of trees and its still-intact Georgian market house (Plate 2), the Square provided a revealing showcase for a fin-de-siècle townscape and an effective contrast with the nearby protestant churchyard, where after centuries of ruination cathedral and round tower stood ready to greet the tourist with all the tranquillising power of a well-kept museum. Other institutional buildings included two large catholic churches, an unofficial 'town hall', and the convent—but not the castle, which in its modern role of off-street private dwelling was generally ignored (or at any rate unphotographed) by visiting sightseers.

Kildare at the turn of the century was still without mills or factories. Its occupational structure was rudimentary and it seldom figured in either the advertisement columns or the news pages of the local press. Then in the summer of 1900 the situation was suddenly transformed by the news that a large army barracks would shortly be built on the site of the Lock Hospital. At once new public services were planned and new businesses prepared to move in.³⁹ There was even talk of recovering the 'urban honours' that the town had lost in 1840. According to the *Leinster Leader* of 29 September, 'Kildare . . . has a brighter prospect before it than it ever had'. Seen from the standpoint of 1986, this promise has been at least partly fulfilled. Kildare is still without municipal self-government, but since 1901 its population has more than doubled. The barracks survived the coming of Irish independence in 1922, and other activities that have brought trade to the town are tourism and horse-management. The last half-century has also seen the establishment of several factories, one of which is still active in the slaughtering and processing of cattle. Shopping holds its importance, notably at the reinvigorated weekly market, and there are a number of large schools. Local-authority and to a lesser extent private housing now form a pronounced suburban fringe, especially to the north-east (Map 3, Plate 1). Many inferior dwellings have been removed, but most of the large buildings that lasted into the late nineteenth century remain in good condition a hundred years later, and the atmosphere of an historic town has been well maintained.

NOTES

1. The most recent summary is Charles Doherty's 'The monastic town in early medieval Ireland' in Clarke and Simms, *Urban origins*, i, pp 60–63.
2. Kathleen Hughes, *Early Christian Ireland, introduction to the sources* (London, 1972), p. 228.
3. Leo Swan, 'Monastic proto-towns in early medieval Ireland: the evidence from aerial photography, plan analysis and survey' in Clarke and Simms, *Urban origins*, i, p. 86.
4. Hayes-McCoy, *Ulster maps*, no. iii.
5. Swan, *op. cit.*, p. 99.
6. Viking attacks on Kildare are listed by A. T. Lucas, 'The plundering and burning of churches in Ireland, 7th to 16th century' in Etienne Rynne (ed.), *North Munster studies* (Limerick, 1967), p. 220.
7. J. T. O'Meara (ed.), *The history and topography of Ireland by Giraldus Cambrensis* (Portlaoise, 1982), pp 81–2.
8. Lord Walter Fitzgerald had no response to his query about the origin of this name in *KASJ*, vi (1911), p. 523.
9. P. S. Dineen (ed.), *The history of Ireland by Geoffrey Keating*, iii (London, Irish Texts Society, 1908), pp 301, 307.
10. G. H. Orpen (ed.), *The song of Dermot and the earl* (Oxford, 1892), pp 197, 203, 205.
11. *Red Bk Kildare*, p. 31; B. J. Graham, 'The towns of medieval Ireland' in Butlin, *Irish town*, p. 60.
12. Thomas Reading, map of Dalkey, Co. Dublin, 1765, NLI, 16.G.52 (5).
13. TCD, MS 813, f.37 (4 June 1642).
14. *Cal. justic. rolls Ire.*, 1305–7, pp 269–70; Otway-Ruthven, *Medieval Ireland*, p. 132.
15. Fynes Moryson, *An itinerary containing his ten yeeres travell . . .*, ii (Glasgow, 1907), p. 351.
16. Cullen, *Modern Ireland*, pp 64–5.
17. Bodl. Rawlinson MS, D.71, quoted in Edward MacLysaght, *Irish life in the seventeenth century* (2nd ed., Cork and Dublin, 1950), p. 361.
18. John Woodhouse, *A guide for strangers in the Kingdome of Irelande* (London, 1647); William Petty, *A general mapp of Ireland* (London, 1685); Christopher Browne, *A new mapp of the Kingdome of Ireland* (London, 1691); Carel Allard, *Hyberniae regni* (Amsterdam, 1691).
19. A. A. Horner, *Stability and change in the towns and villages west of Dublin*, University of Dublin, Ph.D. thesis, 1974, pp 47–8.
20. *Anth. Hib.*, p. 242.
21. *Parl. gaz.*, ii, pp 400–1.
22. *Anth. Hib.*, p. 242.
23. W. M. Hennessy, 'The Curragh of Kildare', *RIA Proc.*, ix (1864–6), pp 343–55; Walter Fitzgerald, 'The Curragh: its history and traditions', *KASJ*, iii (1899), pp 1–32.

24. *KO* 9.2.1889.
25. *KO* 2.11.1889.
26. *Nat. ed. rep.*, p. 128.
27. OSN, 1872.
28. Kevin Whelan, *A geography of society and culture in Ireland since 1800*, NUI (University College, Dublin), Ph. D. thesis, 1981, pp 60–84.
29. *KO* 15.5.1886.
30. Whelan, *op. cit.*, pp 50, 58.
31. *Vice-regal commission on Irish railways: appendix to the 4th report*, 47, HC 1908 [Cd. 4205], xlviii.
32. *KO* 8.2.1890 (a general comment on the towns near Dublin).
33. The scarcity of water in Kildare was noticed even by casual visitors and by directory editors without an intimate knowledge of the town, e.g. Ambularius, 'Physical geography of Ireland', *Anthologia Hibernica*, iii (1794), p. 5; A. Atkinson, *The Irish tourist* (Dublin, 1815), p. 215; *Pigot*, 1824.
34. *KO* 26.7.1884; *LL* 22.1.1881.
35. *KO* 10.9.1892.
36. Bergin, pp 71–92. Bergin had lived at Beech Grove, Dublin Street, since 1894.
37. *KO* 23.3.1889.
38. *Report from the select committee on town holdings*, qq 1609–15, HC 1886 (213), xii.
39. *LL* 9.6.1900, 25.8.1900, 1.9.1900, 8.9.1900.

Topographical Information

The following information relates not to any single administrative division or the sheet lines of any particular map, but to the built-up area of Kildare at each of the dates referred to.

All grid references are derived from the Irish National Grid. This grid appears at 100 m intervals on Map 3. In the Topographical Information grid references are included where possible for features not named on either Map 2 or Map 3: they are given in eight figures (the last four figures respectively of the eastings and northings shown on Map 3) and indicate the approximate centre of the feature in question.

The entries under each heading, except for Streets, are arranged in chronological order by categories: for example, all malt houses are listed before all forges, because the oldest malt house pre-dates the oldest forge.

In general, dates of initiation and cessation are specified as such. Where these are unknown, the first and last recorded dates are given, and references of intermediate date are omitted except where corroborative evidence appears necessary. Features originating after 1900 are listed only in exceptional cases. In source-citations, a pair of years joined by a hyphen includes all intervening years for which that source is available: thus 1838–1908 (OS) means all Ordnance Survey maps from 1838 to 1908 inclusive.

Street names are listed in alphabetical order. The first entry for each street gives its present-day name according to the most authoritative source, followed by its first identifiable appearance, named or unnamed, in a map or other record and the various names subsequently applied to it in chronological order of occurrence. For names remaining unchanged on successive Ordnance Survey maps, only the first occurrence of the Ordnance Survey spelling is cited.

The section on residence is not intended to embrace more than a small fraction of the town's dwelling houses. The main criteria for inclusion are (1) contribution to the townscape, past or present; (2) significance in defining critical stages in the history of urban or suburban housing; (3) abundance of documentation, especially for houses representative of a large class of dwellings. Biographical associations are not in themselves a ground for inclusion.

Abbreviated source-references are explained in the bibliography on pages 11–12 or in the general list inside the back cover.

1 Name

Early spellings

Cella Roboris 78th cent. (Bollandus, 1 Feb., 123).
 Cell Dara 9th cent. (Ó hAodha, 3).
 Cill Dara 12th cent. (Best *et al.*, v, 1322) to present.
 Kildar 1277 (Sayles, 15).
 Kildare 1302 (Sayles, 57) to present.
 Kildaria 1391 (Sayles, 186).
 Druim Craig noted as obsolete in 12th cent. (Best *et al.*, ii, 424).

Current spellings

Kildare
 Cill Dara
 Derivation

'Church of the oak tree'. Fragments of a gigantic oak, said to have been associated with St Brigid, survived until 10th–12th cent. (Bollandus, 1 Feb., 160; Kenney, *Sources*, 356).

2 Legal status

Civitas refugii 7th cent. (Cogitosus, below, appendix A).
Villa c. 1183 (O'Meara, 154–5).
 Burgh¹ temp. Henry III (1216–72), 1283 (*Cal. doc. Ire.*, 1252–84, 161, 472).
 Burgh, burgesses¹ 1297 (*Cal. justic. rolls Ire.*, 1295–1303, 174, 188).
 Town¹ 1298 (*Cal. justic. rolls Ire.*, 1295–1303, 203).
 Murage charter in 1515 (*Red Bk Kildare*, 178).
 City 1599 (*Cal. S.P. Ire.*, 1599–1600, 258).
 Borough 1600, 1613 (*Cal. S.P. Ire.*, 1606–8, 577, 1611–14, 412), 1688 (*Mun. corp. Ire. rep.*, 197).
 Charter in 1688 (*Mun. corp. Ire. rep.*, 197).
 Corporation dissolved in 1840 (3 & 4 Vict., c. 108).
¹Modern English translation from medieval Latin.

3 Parliamentary status

Meeting place of Irish parliament in 1276–7, 1310 (Richardson and Sayles, *Irish Parliament*, 333, 335).
 Parliamentary borough (2 members) 1560–1800 (*NHI*, ix, 47, 110).
 Part of Co. Kildare constituency 1801–85 (*NHI*, ix, 58, 113).
 Part of South Kildare constituency from 1885 (*NHI*, ix, 58, 113).

4 Proprietorial status

Manor 1248 (*Cal. doc. Ire., 1171-1251, 440*).
 Manor surrendered to crown by William de Vesey in 1297 (*Mun. corp. Ire. rep., 197*).
 Manor granted to John FitzThomas FitzGerald, earl of Kildare, in 1319 (*Mun. corp. Ire. rep., 197*).

5 Municipal boundary

No full definition recorded. Partial definitions as follows.
 Town: Part of the earl of Kildare's manor of Kildare as surveyed by Thomas Emerson, comprising modern townlands of Curragh Farm, Kildare, Kilnagornan, Loughandys, Loughlion, Loughminane, part of Redhills, and Southgreen, together with other unspecified properties not included in the survey 1674 (Emerson, below, appendix B).
 Town: Modern townlands of Bishopslane, Collaghknock Glebe, Crockanure Glebe, Curragh Farm, Kildare, Knockshough Glebe, Loughlion, Loughminane, Southgreen, Whitesland East and Whitesland West 1757 (Rocque).
 Borough: Limits said to include the Curragh (2 km E. of town) and the King's Bog (3 km S. of town), and to be very unequal in their extent in different directions, with portions 'separated from the rest by the intervention of other lands' 1833 (*Mun. corp. Ire. rep. 197*).

6 Administrative location

County: Kildare 13th cent. (Otway-Ruthven, 1959, 185) to present.
 Barony: Offaly 1297 (*Cal. justic. rolls Ire., 1295-1303, 167*), 1654 (CS), 1752 (Noble and Keenan). East Offaly 1783 (Taylor), 1838 (OS).
 Civil parish: Kildare 1654 (CS), 1838 (OS).
 Townland: Kildare 1838 (OS).
 Poor law union: Naas, formed in 1839 (HC 1843 (275), xlvii, 45).
 Rural district: Naas No. 1, formed in 1898 (61 & 62 Vict., c. 37).
 Poor law electoral division (after 1898, district electoral division): Kildare formed in 1839 (HC 1839 (239), xx, 146).

7 Administrative divisions

None recorded.

8 Population

1757	970	1881	1174 ¹	1956	2617
1798	c.1600	1891	1172	1961	2551
1821	1516	1901	1576	1966	2855
1831	1753	1911	2639	1971	3137
1841	1629	1926	2116	1979	3882
1851	1298	1936	1758	1981	4016
1861	1426	1946	2109		
1871	1333	1951	2637		

(1757 and 1798 from Horner, 1969, 444-51; Horner, 1975-6, 482-3; remainder from *Census*)

¹Excluding Lock Hospital and Infirmary (see 19 Health), whose combined population was 70 persons.

9 Housing

	NUMBER OF HOUSES			
	Inhabited	Uninhabited	Building	Total
1821	298	12	—	310
1831	327	17	2	346
1841	299	26	2	327
1851	229	39	—	268
1861	253	13	—	266
1871	246	—	—	246
1881	256	5	—	261
1891	248	2	—	250
1901	286	57	—	343

(*Census*)

10 Streets

Abbey Lane See Claemore Road, White Abbey Road.
 Academy Street See Claemore Road.
 Back Lane See Claemore Road, Rathangan Road No. 2.
 Bangup Lane Unnamed 1757, 1817, closed 1798 (KEM). Bangup Lane 1838 (OS), 1875 (RD 1875/27/62). Origin of name unknown, compare Bang Up Corner, near Ballon, Co. Carlow.
 Barrack Street See Hospital Street.
 Bergan Street or Bergin Street See Bride Street.
 Black Ditch See Claemore Road.
 Blind Lane Unnamed 1757 (Rocque). Blindwell Lane 1872 (OS). Blind Lane 1908 (OS). Named after the Blindwell (see 18 Utilities).
 Blindwell Lane See Blind Lane.
 Bohereenagorr or Boreenagurp Unnamed 1757 (KEM). Boreenagurp 1838 (OS). Bohereenagorr 1872-1974 (OS). Boreenuncon (local tradition). Bóthairín na gCorp 1985 (nameplate). 'Little road of the corpses'. For another road bearing a similar name, perhaps in error, see Priest's Lane.
 Boreena Clona, Boreen-a-Cloonagh or Boreena Clonagh See Meadow Road.
 Boreenuncon See Bohereenagorr.
 Boremore Lane See Melitta Road.
 Bóthairín na gCon See Priest's Lane.
 Bóthairín na gCorp See Bohereenagorr.
 Bride Street/ Sráid Bhríde Unnamed 1757, Bergan Street 1798-1847(KEM). Bergin Street 1874 (RD 1888/24/205) (the Bergin family held adjoining land). Bride Street 1838, 1872, 1908 (OS). Chapel Street 1853-80 (Val. 2, Val. 3). Sráid Bhríde/Bride Street 1985 (nameplate).

Cathedral Drive
 Chapel Hill [north]

Chapel Hill [south]

Chapel Lane

Chapel Street
 Chaplin's Lane

Church Lane [east]
 Church Lane [west]

Church and Friary Lane

Claemore Road/
 Bóthar an Chlai Mhóir

Clare Street
 Claregate Street/
 Sráid Gheata
 an Chléir

Cleamoor Street
 Connaught Lane
 Convent Road

Cox's Lane
 Cross Keys [Junction]

Dublin Street/
 Sráid Átha Cliath

Duneny Lane

Fair Green

Fire Castle Lane/
 Lána Caisleán Tine

Fire House Lane/
 Lána Tine Bhríde

Gaterelylaure Street

Great Lane
 Great Street, the
 Green, the
 Green Road
 Heffernan's Lane/
 Lána Ó hEifearnáin

Hospital Street

Jackey's Lane
 Love Lane

Main Street
 Malone's Lane/
 Lána Ó Maoileoin

Market Square
 or Market Place

Meadow Road/
 Bóthar na Cluaine

Melitta Road

Middle Street, the
 Monasterevin Road

Newbridge Road
 North Street
 Nugent or Newgent
 Street

See Fire House Lane.
 Unnamed 1757, Chapel Lane 1847 (KEM), 1872 (OS). Church and Friary Lane 1853 (Val. 2). Chapel Hill 1974 (OS). Named after former R.C. Chapel.
 Unnamed 1757 (KEM). The Chapel Hill 1787 (RD 394/234/259997). Connaught Lane 1838 (OS). Church and Friary Lane 1853 (Val. 2). Chapel Hill 1872 (OS). Unnamed 1757 (KEM). Chapel Lane [east] 1838 (OS). Closed 1847 (KEM) and thereafter. See also Chapel Hill [north], Fire Castle Lane.
 See Bride Street.
 Unnamed 1798 (KEM). Cox's Lane 1872, 1908 (OS), 1898 (RD 1898/7/126). Chaplin's Lane 1974 (OS). The Revd William Cox (d. 1859) leased land adjoining the lane in 1839 (Leinster leases 1). Dr Samuel Chaplin leased the same land in 1884 (Leinster leases 2).
 See Fire House Lane.
 See Fire Castle Lane.
 See Chapel Hill [north], Chapel Hill [south], Fire Castle Lane.
 Abbey Lane 1674 (Emerson). Black Ditch or Cleamoor Street 1757, 1817, 1847 (KEM). Pound Street 1838 (OS). Back Lane 1853-67 (Val. 2, Val. 3). Academy Street 1974 (OS), named after St Joseph's Academy, De la Salle Brothers, opened in 1939. Bóthar an Chlai Mhóir/Claemore Road 1985 (nameplate).
 See Claregate Street.
 The Middle Street 1674 (Emerson). Claregate Street 1757-1847 (KEM), 1838, 1872 (OS). Clare Street 1783 (RD 355/386/240671). West Street 1853-80 (Val. 2, Val. 3), 1878 (RD 1878/43/270). Sráid Gheata an Chléir/Claregate Street 1985 (nameplate). Named after Clare Gate (see 12 Defence).
 See Claemore Road.
 See Chapel Hill [south].
 See Meadow Road.
 See Chaplin's Lane.
 Junction Academy St, White Abbey Rd, Claregate St, Monasterevin Rd. Perhaps derived from Cros Chae (St Cae's cross). Cross Keys 1872 (OS), 'applies to all the houses immediately adjoining the cross roads' 1872 (OSN).
 The Middle Street 1674 (Emerson). Dublin Street 1757-1847 (KEM), 1908 (OS). The Main Street 1763 (RD 221/334/148028). The Great Street of Kildare 1787 (RD 384/462/256040). Main Street 1853-1967 (Val. 2, Val. 3). Sráid Átha Cliath/Dublin Street 1985 (nameplate).
 See Monasterevin Road.
 See St Brigid's Square.
 Unnamed 1757, Fire Castle Lane 1798-1847 (KEM), c. 1886 (Leinster leases 2). Chapel Lane [west] 1838 (OS). Church and Friary Lane 1853 (Val. 2). Church Lane [west] 1872-1974 (OS). Lána Caisleán Tine/Fire Castle Lane 1985 (nameplate).
 Unnamed 1757 (KEM). Church Lane 1838 (OS), 1847 (KEM). Church Lane [east] 1908, 1936 (OS). Cathedral Drive 1981-5 (inscription). Fire House Lane (local tradition). Lána Tine Bhríde/Fire House Lane 1985 (nameplate).
 'Near the west gate of Kildare within the town and corporation of Kildare' 1801 (RD 538/188/356897). Location unknown, perhaps Malone's Lane.
 See Melitta Road.
 See Dublin Street.
 See Shraud.
 See Rathangan Road No. 1.
 From Claregate Street to Fire House Lane (28252400). 1923 (Waterworks maps). Lána Ó hEifearnáin/Heffernan's Lane 1985 (nameplate).
 Unnamed 1757 (Rocque). Newbridge Road 1853-80 (Val. 2, Val. 3). Hospital Street 1872 (OS). Barrack Street 1901 (Census returns). Named after Lock Hospital. (28712678). From Shraud to Chapel Hill (local tradition). Unnamed 1757 (Rocque). Love Lane 1809 (RD 609/530/422946), 1872 (OS). Closed 1908 (OS).
 See Dublin Street.
 From Claregate St to junction Fire House Lane, Church Lane (27502440) (local tradition). Lána Ó Maoileoin/Malone's Lane 1985 (nameplate).
 Market Place 1726 (RD 48/302/31662), 1751 (RD 148/298/99614). Unnamed 1757, Market Square 1798, 1817 (KEM), 1872 (OS).
 Boreena Clona Lane 1757, Boreena Cloonagh 1798, Boreen-a-Cloonagh 1817 (KEM). Boreena Clonagh 1800 (RD 1887/35/130) ('little road of the meadow'). Chapel Street 1853 (Val. 2). Named after St Brigid's R.C. Chapel. Convent Road 1974 (OS). Bóthar na Cluaine/Meadow Road 1985 (nameplate).
 Boremore Lane 1674 (Emerson). Great Lane 1757 (Rocque). Melitta Road 1908 (OS). Named after Melitta House near the Curragh.
 See Claregate Street, Dublin Street. (25502375). Duneny Lane (after village of Duneny, S.W. of Kildare) 1674 (Emerson). Turnpike Road 1757-1817 (KEM). Monasterevin Road 1853 (Val. 2).
 See Hospital Street.
 See Station Road.
 See Station Road.

Nugent's Lane	Location unknown. 1767 (<i>Infirmiry building</i>).
Pigeon Lane	Pidgeon Lane 1847 (KEM), Pigeon Lane 1872 (OS).
Pound Green	See St Brigid's Square.
Pound Street	See St Brigid's Square.
Priest's Lane	Booreena Gorp 1757, Boreen-a-gorp 1817, 1847 (KEM). Priest's Lane 1872-1974 (OS). Bóthairín na gCon 1985 (nameplate).
Railway Road	See Station Road.
Rathangan Road or Rathangan Road No. 1	(24652600, 26002535). Unnamed 1757 (KEM). Rathangan Road 1853 (Val. 2). Green Road 1872 (OS). Rathangan Road No. 1 1880-1967 (Val. 3). For another Rathangan Road, see White Abbey Road.
Rathangan Road No. 2	From Chapel Hill to Station Road (29452665). Back Lane 1853 (Val. 2). Back Lane off North St 1859-80 (Val. 3). Rathangan Road No. 2 1880-1967 (Val. 3).
Rathbride Lane	See Station Road.
Rathbride Road	See Shraud, Station Road.
St Brigid's Square	Unnamed 1757, Fair Green 1798, 1817 (KEM), 1853 (Val. 2). Pound Green 1872, 1908 (OS). 'Pound Street (also called Pound Green)' 1896 (RD 1896/48/252). St Brigid's Square 1974 (OS). Named after St Brigid's R.C. Church.
Shraud	(29302690). The Green 1798, 1817 (KEM). Rathbride Road 1853 (Val. 2). Shraud 1872 (OS).
Shrawd Street	See Station Road.
Sraite in cheim chloici	'Street of the stone way or passage or terrace' A.D. 909 (Radner, 166-7).
Station Road (Nugent Street)	Rathbride Lane 1674 (Emerson). Newgent or Nugent Street 1757-1847 (KEM). Shrawd Street 1838 (OS). North Street 1853 (Val. 2). North Street or Railway Road 1906 (Val. 3). Rathbride Road 1872 (OS). Station Road 1908 (OS). Named after Kildare railway station. Station Road (Nugent Street) 1985 (name plate).
Tully Road	Road to Tully 1757 (Rocque). Tully Road 1908 (OS).
Turnpike Road	See Monasterevin Road.
West Street	See Claregate Street.
White Abbey Road/Bóthar na Mainistreach Báine	(26752460). Abbey Lane 1674 (Emerson). White Abbey Street 1798-1847 (KEM), 1838 (OS). Rathangan Road 1853 (Val. 2). Bóthar na Mainistreach Báine/White Abbey Road 1985 (nameplate).

11 Religion

- Monastery of monks and nuns. Site unknown. Original location believed to adjoin Fire House (*q.v.*) in cathedral churchyard. Founded by St Brigid, late 5th or early 6th cent.; abbots recorded to A.D. 885, abbesses to 1171 (Gwynn and Hadcock, *Religious houses*, 82-3, 319-20). At dissolution, 1540, precincts said to contain 'a small castle or fortilage with a chapel, suitable for the farmer's use' (*Extents Ir. mon. possessions*, 163), perhaps at a different location from the above. Granted to Redmond Fitzgerald in 1574 (*Fiants*, Eliz., 2421) and to Anthony Deering in 1585 (*Fiants*, Eliz., 4575).
- Site of Fire House, cathedral churchyard. Alleged chapel of St Brigid, 6th cent., containing perpetual fire (Ware, i, 380; OS 1872). One wall remaining in 1784 (Cowell, 244-5). Masonry foundations in rectangular depression 1986.
- Round tower, cathedral churchyard, 33 m high; upper part mainly sandstone, probably 12th cent., including doorway with romanesque ornament; lower 3 m granite, date unknown (Barrow, 406-18). 6 bractate coins of c. 1135 found under base (Dolley, 84-6). Tower restored and battlements added in early 18th cent. (Barrow, 406-18).
- Undecorated granite cross, cathedral churchyard (28202439). Shaft and cross found separated from their supposed original base, re-erected in c. 1862 (Ware, i, 380; OSN).
- 3 carved early Christian or medieval stone slabs, pre-1200, now in S. transept of cathedral (Fitzgerald, 1904, 379).
- St Brigid's Cathedral and parish church of Kildare (C. of I.). Believed to be on site of church built by St Brigid, and described by Cogitosus in A.D. c. 630 (below, appendix A). Repaired or rebuilt by Ralph of Bristol, bishop of Kildare, in 1223, with further alterations, perhaps including present stepped battlements, in c. 1395 (Clapham, 25). 'Altogether in ruins' at visitation of 1615, with further destruction in 1641; rectangular 'pro-cathedral' built in c. 1686 on site of present choir; chapter house built in 1738, E. angle of S. transept (Paterson, 31-3). On earliest map, 1757 (KEM), nave, tower, S. transept and chapter house all in ruins, N. transept omitted, rectangular unroofed enclosures shown N. of pro-cathedral (omitted on later maps) and W. of S. transept; no further alterations on later maps to 1850, except addition of porch S. of pro-cathedral 1838, 1872 (OS). Bell tower erected in 1856 due E. of present N. transept (Paterson, 33), shown in map of 1872 (OS) and two undated photographs (Paterson, pls 12, 16), demolished in total restoration of cathedral (plans in RCB) under architects G. E. Street (1875-81) and J. F. Fuller (1890-96); re-opened in 1896 (Paterson, 35).
- Churchyard. In occasional use as burial ground 1986. Wall: masonry of varied composition, unknown date; modern entrance near S.E. corner; former narrow arched entrance on S. side, now blocked by masonry.
- Bishop's Palace. Site unknown, presumably N. of cathedral churchyard in or near 'Palace Field' (Devitt, 365), a still-current local name also commemorated in Palacefield Terrace 1936 (OS). In ruins 1654 (CS).
- Franciscan Friary (Grey Abbey), c. 250 m S.W. of St Brigid's Sq. Founded either by Gerald FitzMaurice, lord of Offaly, in 1254, or by William de Vesey, lord of Kildare, in c. 1260 (Gwynn and Hadcock, *Religious houses*, 252). Chapel added in early 14th cent. by Thomas FitzJohn, second earl of Kildare (Archdall, *Monasticon*, ii, 278). Burial place of several later earls of Kildare (Kildare, Marquess). Burnt in 1540 (*Extents Ir. mon. possessions*, 166). Granted to David Sutton of Tully in 1543 (*Fiants*, Henry VIII, 345). Friars active in Kildare 1641-2 (TCD, MS 813, ff. 51, 264) but place of residence unrecorded. Walls of church and outbuildings extant 1757 (Rocque). Unroofed nave and chancel survive 1986. Graveyard in occasional use 1986.
- Friars' Well, c. 100 m W. of Grey Abbey. 1746 (RD 123/86/83680), 1872 (OS). (See also Jackson, 156).
- Carmelite Friary (White Abbey), Rathangan Rd (25102584). Founded in c. 1290 by William de Vesey, lord of Kildare (Archdall, *Monasticon*, ii, 279). Burnt in 1540 (*Extents Ir. mon. possessions*, 167). Granted to David Sutton of Tully in 1543 (*Fiants*, Henry VIII, 345). Ruins recorded in 1794 (*Anth. Hib.*, 241), depicted in 1790 by Austin Cooper (Murphy, 298) and anonymously in c. 1810 (Harbison,

- 436). Site reoccupied by Carmelites in c. 1710 (Porter). Rectangular building on maps of 1757-1817 (KEM). Chapel built in c. 1830 (OSN); extant 1847 (KEM), later demolished. Priory built in 1832 (OSN). Graveyard closed in 1882 (LL 17.12.1881, 11.3.1882); in occasional use thereafter.
- Carmelite Church, Rathangan Rd (25122616). Begun in 1884, opening ceremony in 1889, architect William Hague of Dublin (KO 30.3.1889).
- Church of St Mary Magdalene, location unknown. 'At the entry of the said town' 1307 (*Cal. justic. rolls Ire.*, 1305-7, 514). Magdelensland recorded as placename c. 1 km E. of town 1674 (Emerson).
- Roman Catholic Chapel, Chapel Hill. T-shaped outline, in same position but with varying proportions on maps of 1757-1817 (KEM) and 1838 (OS). Destroyed in rebellion of 1798 (Madden, ii, 362), rebuilt in 1800 (*Freeman's Journal*, 21.10.1800). Disused after opening of St Brigid's Roman Catholic Church (*q.v.*) in 1833. Demolished before 1847 (KEM). Sites of former entrances marked by wall tablets in Chapel Hill and Fire Castle Lane 1986.
- Roman Catholic Chapel, Station Rd W., N. of Shraud (30292697) 1807 (Walker).
- Presentation Convent, Meadow Rd N. Founded for 20 nuns in 1829; rebuilt in 1839 (*Cill Dara Brigde*, 44). See also 20 Education.
- St Brigid's Roman Catholic Church, St Brigid's Sq. E. Built in 1833 (datestone). Tower added in 1851 (Paterson, 18).

12 Defence

- Black Ditch or Clae Mor (great ditch). Perhaps partly represented by former earthen bank W. of Claemore Rd, obliterated by building of wallpaper factory in c. 1936 (local information). See also 10 Streets.
- Town wall. Building authorised in 1515: 'fossa[t]is et muris de petra et calce' (*Red Bk Kildare*, 178). Walls mentioned in *Tydings* (1642) and in list of Irish walled towns in 1657 (Dunlop, *Commonwealth*, ii, 666). Alleged fragment reported near castle 1837 (OS Memorandums). No authenticated remains visible 1986.
- Town gates
- Clare Gate, Claregate St, site unknown. 1674 (Emerson), 1684 (Kildare rent roll). West Gate 1801 (RD 538/188/356897). Demolished before 1757 (KEM).
- Ellis Gate, Station Rd, site unknown. 1674 (Emerson), 1684 (Kildare rent roll). Demolished before 1757 (KEM).
- White Gate, Dublin St, site unknown. 1674 (Emerson). Demolished before 1757 (KEM).
- Earl's Castle, presumably on site of The Park. 'Castle of Kildare' mentioned c. 1185 (*Ormond deeds*, 1172-1350, 4). Construction attributed to William Marshall, earl of Pembroke (d. 1219). 4 towers, chapel and kitchen 1331 (Fitzgerald, 1902, 486). 'Great and strong fortifications and ditches made and intended to be made' by earl of Kildare 1484 (Bryan, 71). 'Greatest tower or keep' mentioned 1598 (*Cal. S.P. Ire.*, 1598-9, 375). 'Lately built' by earl of Wandesford 1642; burned by rebels in 1641 (TCD, MS 813, ff. 23, 37).
- Tower, E. side of The Park. Rectangular ground plan, 6.8 m by 7.4 m, 4 storeys, stone, slated roof. Originally a 13th-cent. gatehouse; later converted to residential tower, possibly in c. 1484 (Bryan, 71), with openings characteristic of both periods (Urb. Arch. Survey). Shown in all maps and views of the town. Occupied as dwelling house 1986.
- Bailey and bailey wall. Wall attached to tower on S. (length c. 8 m) and N. (length c. 120 m, bounding Park on E., N. and W.); probably 16th or 17th cent. on 13th-cent. foundations; bastions at S.W. angle (enclosed within modern buildings), and N. angle (Urb. Arch. Survey). Castle wall, castle bawn 1684 (Kildare rent roll). 'The hill' (30202323). Part of Richard Heatherington's holding 1752 (RD 174/482/117145), perhaps mound W. of present courthouse mapped in 1757 (KEM). A possible Anglo-Norman motte. No visible remains.
- 'Old tower'. Market Sq. N. (29872340). Occupied by William Higgins 1798 (KEM). Probably part of perimeter of Earl's Castle. Perhaps surviving as foundations observed during construction of Tower Cinema in c. 1940 (ITA survey). No visible remains.
- Castle, location unknown. Belonged to dean and chapter of Kildare 1654 (CS).
- Fire Castle, N. of Fire Castle Lane (27492497). 1674 (Emerson). L-shaped building 1757 (KEM). Demolished before 1798 but site recorded in 1798 (KEM) and 1853 (Val. 2). See 10 Streets.
- Nugent's Castle, location unknown. 1684 (Kildare rent roll).
- Archdeacon's Castle, location unknown, probably between cathedral churchyard and Station Rd. 1739 (Parish records), 1781 (RD 346/37/230276).
- Tower, wall and archway, grounds of Beech Grove, N. of Dublin St (30472303). Mapped in 1872 (OS) but not earlier. Probably a mid-19th-cent. 'folly'.
- Barracks, Hospital St. Built in 1901 to accommodate 1100 men (6 batteries of Royal Field Artillery) and 600 horses (Bergin, 72; Porter; *Military works accounts*).

13 Administration

- Prison, location unknown. 1293 (*Cal. doc. Ire.*, 1293-1301, 53).
- Gaol, location unknown. 1722 (RD 35/135/21466).
- Tolsel or town hall, location unknown. 'Tolsale' 1674 (Emerson).
- Town Hall, Bride St W. (28142248). Upper floor of De La Salle Brothers' School building of 1884 (*q.v.*), used as community centre and generally known as town hall despite non-existence of town council or other municipal authority.
- Post Office, Market Sq. S. (29422307). 1798 (KEM).
- Post Office, Claregate St S. (28072364). 1838 (OS).
- Telegraph Office, Dublin St S. (30242281). 1872 (OS). Post Office 1908, 1974 (OS).
- Sessions House, Market Sq. W. (28822410). 1817 (KEM), circular building apparently converted from cockpit (see 21 Entertainment).
- Court House, Dublin St N. Built by direction of Co. Kildare grand jury at Lent assizes 1829 (RD 850/81/568581); 1838 (OS). Used for sales 1889 (KO 16.2.1889) and public meetings 1892 (KO 13.8.1892). Social welfare employment office, county council district roads office, and district court house, 1986.
- Police Station, Claregate St S. (28112463). 1838 (OS).
- Constabulary Barracks, Dublin St S. (29752294). 1853 (Val. 2), 1872, 1908 (OS). Garda Station 1974 (OS), later moved to former Church of Ireland school building (see 20 Education).

14 Primary production

- Orchard, site unknown. Richard Heatherington's tenement near Earl's Castle 1752 (RD 174/482/117145).
- Common, W. of Clare Gate. Less than 2.5 hect. (6 stat. acres), 'lately ditched up and grazed by one person' 1674 (Emerson).
- Common, N. of St Brigid's Sq. 1674 (Emerson).
- Common, in or near Shraud. 1798-1847 (KEM). 'The commons facing the fair green' 1875 (RD 1875/20/75).
- Gravel pit, Claemore Rd W. 1838 (OS).

15 Manufacturing

- Mill, location unknown. 1258, 1267 (*Cal. doc. Ire., 1252-84*, 94, 133).
 Mills, location unknown. 1268 (*Cal. doc. Ire., 1252-84*, 137).
 Watermill, location unknown. Destroyed before 1304 (*Cal. doc. Ire., 1302-7*, 116).
 Windmill, Rathangan Rd, near Lough Minane. 'Ruined' 1674 (Emerson).
 Windmill, Hospital St N., 0.5 km E. of town. 'Old windmill' 1684 (Kildare rent roll), 1757 (Rocque).
 Mill house, St Brigid's Sq. N. (28442176). No power-source or other particulars recorded 1757 (KEM).
 Brewhouse, location unknown. 1684 (Kildare rent roll).
 Malt house, junction Dublin St, Meadow Rd (31332230). 1749 (RD 140/369/95339), 1757, 1798 (KEM).
 Malt house, Market Sq. N. (29812362). 1757, 1798 (KEM).
 Malt house, St Brigid's Sq. N. (28572188). 1757, 1817 (KEM).
 Malt house, Dublin St S. (30292255). 1798 (KEM).
 Forge, junction Claregate St, White Abbey Rd (26902431). 1757 (KEM).
 Forge, Market Sq. S. (29762294). 1798 (KEM).
 Forge, Rathangan Rd (26682428). 1853-c. 1868 (Val. 2, Val. 3).
 Forge, Station Rd E. (30012569). 1853-1967 (Val. 2, Val. 3), 1872 (OS).

16 Trades and services

- Market. Weekly, 'from time whereof memory runs not' 1458 (*Stat. Ire., Hen. VI*, 507).
 Authorised, weekly, in charter of 1515 (*Red Bk Kildare*, 180). New patent in 1609 (*Fairs & markets rep.*, 52). Held weekly 1824 (*Pigot*), 1846, 1881 (*Slater*), 1910 (Porter).
 Market Place. See 10 Streets.
 Market House, Market Sq. 3 adjoining buildings with yard 1757; single rectangular building with W. projection 1798; plain rectangular building 1817; similar with N. and E. projections 1838; plain rectangular building on later maps (KEM; OS; Val. 2; Horner, 1975-6, 480-81). Restored by Kildare Co. Council in 1970 (Meagher, 232).
 Fair. Annual, feast of St Brigid, authorised in 1458 (*Stat. Ire., Hen. VI*, 507). 2 additional fairs authorised in 1763 (*Fairs & markets rep.*, 86). Between 2 and 9 fairs per year held or advertised, 1734-1881 (Watson, *Almanack; Pigot; Slater; Fairs & markets rep.*, 86). Monthly 1894 (*Slater*), 1910 (Porter).
 Fair Green, St Brigid's Sq. 1798-1847 (KEM), 1838 (OS), 1853 (Val. 2). Disused, except as pig fair, after establishment of Station Rd fair green in 1869 (OSN).
 Fair Green, Station Rd W. Planned S. of Shraud 1867 (Greene); established N. of Shraud in 1869 (OSN); 1872, 1908 (OS). Walled in c. 1890 (*KO* 21.6.1890).
 Curragh Coffee House, Dublin St S. (30672256). Built in 1759 (RD 211/279/140036, 239/205/157064). Later the Turf Club (see 21 Entertainment).
 Fitzgerald Arms Inn, probably Market Sq. S., perhaps on same site as Leinster Arms (*q.v.*). 1674 (Emerson).
 Ormoune [= Ormond?] Arms Inn, location unknown. 1674 (Emerson).
 Black Bull Inn, Claregate St N., site unknown. 1674 (Emerson), 1801 (RD 538/188/356897).
 Kildare Arms Inn, junction Claregate St, Bangup Lane (28392344). Kildare Arms 1757, The Inn 1798, Old Inn 1817 (KEM).
 Leinster Arms Hotel, Market Sq. S. (29542301). Probably identical with Garter Inn 1763 (RD 221/334/148028), 1780 (*Dublin Journal*, 27.4.1780) and with Cleary's Hotel 1841 (Val. 1). Leinster Arms 1846 (*Slater*). 'Inn' 1847 (KEM). Hotel 1853 (Val. 2), 1872, 1908 (OS). See also Fitzgerald Arms.
 George on Horseback Inn, site unknown, probably Market Sq. W. 1801 (RD 538/188/356897).
 Scott's Hotel, Dublin St S. (29762292). 1841 (Val. 1), 1847 (KEM).
 Railway Hotel, junction Station Rd, Shraud (29962653). Built in c. 1905 (Val. 3), architect Francis Bergin of Kildare (local tradition).
 Bank, junction Market Sq. N., Station Rd W. (29412390). Room in private house rented by Hibernian Banking Co. 1900 (*LL* 8.9.1900).
 Bank, Market Sq. S. (29292310). Built by Hibernian Banking Co. in c. 1903 (Val. 3).

17 Transport

- Turnpike road, Naas to Maryborough. Dublin St, Market Sq., Claregate St, Monasterevin Rd. Trustees appointed in 1731 (5 Geo. II, c. 21). Gate mapped W. of town 1838 (OS). Turnpike trust inoperative after opening of Great Southern and Western Railway (*q.v.*).
 Great Southern and Western Railway. Dublin-Kildare and Kildare-Carlow opened in 1846, Kildare-Cork opened in 1847-9 (Casserley, *Ir. railway hist.*, 44). Kildare railway station opened in 1847, design attributed to Sir John MacNeill (Garner). Telegraph office and goods store 1872, 1908 (OS). Engine house, cattle pens and turntable 1872, 1908 (OS), since removed.

18 Utilities

- Friars' Well. See 11 Religion.
 Blind Well, near Blindwell Lane (33451971). Blindwell 1674 (Emerson). Town well 1757 (Rocque). Blindwell: almost disused for a considerable time; used only for cattle 1872 (OSN).
 Well, Market Sq. Well 1757 (KEM), draw well 1763 (RD 221/334/148028). Pump 1817 (KEM), fountain 1838 (OS), pump house 1847 (KEM), pump 1872 (OS), 'no building' 1873 (Val. 3), pump 1882 (*LL* 6.5.1882). Pump later removed.
 Public water pump, junction Claemore Rd, Monasterevin Rd (26832398). 1872 (OS).
 Public water pump, Bride St W. (28642209). 1872 (OS).
 Public water pump, junction Shraud, Station Rd N. (30172675). 1872 (OS).
 Waterworks. Constructed in 1882-6; extended in 1897; water pumped from St John's Well, Tully, c. 1 km S.E. of Kildare, to tank in roof of market house (*KO* 28.2.1885; *LL* 24.4.1886; *LGB*).
 Sewage works. Constructed in 1883 (*KO* 14.3.1883; *LGB*). Replaced by comprehensive scheme in 1900 (Bergin).
 Pinfold, site unknown, probably same as Pound of 1757 (*q.v.*). 1674 (Emerson).
 Pound, St Brigid's Sq. W. (27922153). Square enclosure with small building on N. side 1757 (KEM).
 Pound, St Brigid's Sq. E. (28492175). Irregular quadrilateral enclosure 1817 (KEM). See 10 Streets: Pound Green, Pound Street.
 Electric power house, St Brigid's Sq. (28082141). 1907 (Val. 3), 1908 (OS).

19 Health

- County Infirmary, Nugent's Lane, location unknown. Temporary infirmary established in 1767 (*Infirmary building*).
 County Infirmary, junction Dublin St, Meadow Rd (31452197). Begun in 1775, opened in 1777, occupied by military in 1798, reopened as infirmary in 1817, enlarged shortly before 1846, closed in 1891, re-opened in 1902 (*Infirmary building; Walker; Slater; Parl. gaz.; Cill Dara Brigde*). Darby House Hotel 1986.
 Lock Hospital, Hospital St N. (34612286), on site later occupied by artillery barracks (see 12 Defence). Built by war department in 1868-9 for treatment of venereal diseases at cost of c. £14,000 (OSN). Closed in 1887 (Leinster leases 2).
 Dispensary, St Brigid's Sq. N. (28142181). c. 1860 (Val. 3), 1872 (OS).
 Dispensary, Tully Rd. c. 1905 (Val. 3), 1908 (OS).

20 Education

- John Cassidy's school, location unknown. Founded in 1810, R.C., 40 pupils in 1824 (Brenan, 177).
 Mrs Ravenhill's school, location unknown. Founded in 1813, R.C., 40 pupils in 1824 (Brenan, 179).
 John Leeson's school, probably Station Rd W. (29572480). Founded in 1816, R.C., 30 pupils in 1824 (KEM; Brenan, 178). John Leeson's hedge school, 65 pupils, 1834 (*Pub. instr. rep.*, 10b).
 Denis Murphy's school, probably White Abbey Rd. Founded in 1817, R.C., 27-38 pupils in 1824 (Brenan, 178-9).
 Daniel McCrone's school, location unknown. Founded in 1817, protestant, 11 pupils in 1824 (Brenan, 185).
 Convent school, Meadow Rd N. Founded in 1830 (OSN) and first housed in a former granary (*Nat. ed. rep.*, 128). Later a female national school (Val. 2). 17 pupils in convent school, 61 in national school in 1868 (*Primary education returns*). Rectangular building (29962155) 1838 (OS), 1847 (KEM), 1853 (Val. 2). New building erected in 1869 (*Cill Dara Brigde*, 44) due E. of original convent (30052175). 1872 (OS). New schoolhouse built in c. 1904 (Val. 3) S.E. of previous building (30262157). 1908 (OS).
 Male National School, St Brigid's Sq. E. (28892201). Founded in 1830, average daily attendance 52 in 1834 (*Pub. instr. rep.*, 10b). 46 pupils in 1868 (*Primary education returns*). 1838, 1872 (OS). Replaced in 1884 by De la Salle Brothers' School (Cantwell and Talbot, 6).
 Church of Ireland School, Dublin St N. (31692243). Land for school house leased by duke of Leinster to dean and chapter of Kildare in 1829 (Leinster leases 1). 16 pupils in 1868 (*Primary education returns*). 1838-1908 (OS), 1853 (Val. 2).
 Carmelite School, Rathangan Rd (24872598). 12 pupils in 1868 (*Primary education returns*), average of 50 in 1872 (OS, OSN).
 De la Salle Brothers' Boys School, Bride St W. (28142248). Built at expense of Michael Lee in 1884 (datestone, *LL* 23.2.1884). 116 pupils in 1885 (Cantwell and Talbot, 6). See also 13 Administration: town hall.

21 Entertainment

- Turf Club of Ireland, Dublin St S. (30672256). 1798-1908 (KEM, OS), formerly Curragh Coffee House (see 16 Trades and services). Later demolished.
 Ball court, Station Rd W. (29482475). 1798, 1817 (KEM).
 Ball court, Station Rd E. (29762404). Land assigned by duke of Leinster in 1834 (Leinster leases 1). 1838-1908 (OS), 1847 (KEM), 1853 (Val. 2).
 Cockpit, Fire House Lane S. (28822410). Presumably on same circular ground-plan as later sessions house (see 13 Administration). After 1798 and before 1817 (Leinster leases 1; KEM).

22 Residence

Single and paired houses

- Beech Grove, Dublin St N. 'A new dwelling house' 1757 (KEM). 'Lodge' 1799 (RD 1883/34/242). Altered, added to, and rebuilt in early 19th cent. (KEM). 'A neat modern mansion' 1872 (OSN).
 Deanery, Station Rd E. Built in 1860-61 by duke of Leinster as C. of I. parsonage (OSN). Parsonage 1872, Deanery 1974 (OS). Since demolished.
 Infirmary House, Meadow Rd N. (31122178). Built in 1866 at cost of £1370 as medical officer's residence (*Infirmary building*). Now Kilgowan Lodge.
 Kildare Lodge, Dublin St N. (30042382). 'A good dwelling house' 1757 (KEM). Built in mid-18th cent., purchased by Thomas Conolly of Castletown, Co. Kildare, in 1761, and by Lord Edward Fitzgerald in 1794 (Boylan, 26-9). Rectangular ground-plan 1757, projection added on E. side 1798, house demolished before 1817 (KEM).
 Leinster Lodge, Chaplin's Lane. 1-storey building connected to tower of Earl's Castle (see 12 Defence) built with apse-ended E. wall between 1757 and 1798 replacing earlier structure of slightly different ground-plan (KEM). 'The Lodge' 1798, 1817 (KEM). Castle Cottage 1898 (Leinster leases 2). Sometimes also called, but not to be confused with, Kildare Lodge.
 Lislee, Dublin St S. (30012270). Handsome town house with curved return projection and Venetian rear window, in early 18th-cent. style (Craig and Garner). Built between 1757 and 1798 (KEM), perhaps at or soon after the leasing of this tenement in 1758 (Leinster leases 1).
 Nolan's house and shop, Market Sq. N. (29222412). Baronial-style brick house and shop front, built in c. 1885 (Val. 3).
 Parochial House, Priest's Lane. Built in 1862-3 for R.C. parish priest (OSN).
 Residence of the De la Salle Brothers, Claemore Rd E. (27742247). Built at expense of William Lee in 1884 (datestone).
 Virginia Lodge, Market Sq. N. (29692349). Built 'in the Georgian idiom' (Craig and Garner) in c. 1864-5 (Val. 3).

Rows and terraces

- Fairview Cottages, Shraud S. 11 decorative brick artisans' houses, built in c. 1895 (Val. 3).
 Jackey's Lane (28712679). 6 labourers' houses, built in c. 1896-7 (Val. 3).
 New Row, Chapel Hill W. (27992666). 20 2-storey houses built by the Revd John Nolan in c. 1878 (Val. 3). 'Erected at a comparatively recent period and with a total disregard to every consideration of health or decency' (*KO* 22.9.1883). 'Their construction is such that private conversations in one house can be heard in the next' (*LL* 10.7.1886). St Brigid's Terrace 1908 (OS). Later demolished.
 Palacefield Terrace, Station Rd W. 7 1-storey stone houses, built in c. 1905 (Val. 3).

APPENDIX A

Extracts from Cogitosus's *Vita Brigidae*, A.D. c. 630 (Bollandus, 1 Feb., 135–41), the first paragraph kindly supplied by Dr J.M. Picard of University College, Dublin, from his own translation, the remainder from C.A. Raleigh-Radford, 'The earliest Irish churches', *UJA*, x1 (1977), 5–7.

From the prologue:

As countless persons of both sexes from every province in the whole of Ireland flocked to [St Brigid] and freely pledged their vows to her, her monastery is head of almost all the Irish churches and surpasses in eminence all the monasteries of the Irish and its *paruchia*, which is spread over the whole land of Ireland, reaches from sea to sea. She built it on the plains of Mag Liffi on the firm foundation of the faith. . . .

From chapter 32:

And this church has many windows and a decorated doorway on the right side, through which the priests and the faithful peoples of the male sex enter the church and a second doorway on the left side, through which the virgins and the congregation of faithful women are accustomed to enter. And thus, in one large church a numerous people, separated into different places by walls, according to order and ranks and sex in different orders, but with one spirit prays to the Almighty Ruler. . . . And who is able to describe in words the greatest glory of this church and the numberless wonders of the city. . . if it is rightly called a city when it is surrounded by no circuit of walls. Yet, with numberless peoples living together within it, it has received the name of city from the coming together within it of many men. Very great is this city and metropolitan. In its suburbs, which St Brigid marked out with a clear boundary, neither earthly foe nor hostile attack is to be feared. But the city is the safest refuge for all fugitives in the whole land of the Irish. In the which are laid up the treasures of kings and the splendour of its decorated roofs is most excellent. And who is able to number the various crowds and the numberless peoples coming together from every province of Ireland? Some come for the richness of the banquets, some for the pageant of the crowds, others to be cured of their ills and others bearing great gifts and services, all meeting together for the feast of the birthday of St Brigid, who fell asleep on the first of February.

APPENDIX B

Extract from 'A book of reference of the towns and lands belonging to the Right Honourable John Earl of Kildare, lying and being in the barony of Offaly in the county of Kildare, with numbers agreeable to the map made in the year 1674' by Thomas Emerson (PRONI, D.3078/2/3/5).

Spelling and punctuation have been modernised (the original is almost entirely unpunctuated), one obvious repetition omitted, and a number of obvious omissions made good in square brackets. Ordnance Survey spellings have been adopted where available; other placenames are spelt as in the original. Lay-out has been simplified and running totals omitted.

The entries preceding no. 15 and following no. 34, not printed here, relate to outlying townlands in the manor of Kildare. Areas are in plantation measure, in which one acre is equal to 1.62 statute acres or c. 0.656 hectares. Emerson's map has not been traced.

15. Kildare Park. A surround wherein is the land called Farrincantie, Farrindie, Keeloge, Logegennes, Lugnebrone and other names, wherein lieth two parcels of Dixon's land and three highways which contain 5 acres that goeth through this surround, one called Rathwalkin or Grange Lane, another which goeth through the middle called Loughan Lane, and the other called Rathangan Lane. This surround is bounded on the south with bishop's, Dixon's and White's land in Kildare, and also Lackagh highway and Moortown; on the west with Lackagh, Rathwalkin, Redhill and Grangeclare; on the north with a little common called Killeagh, common to Kildare, Grangeclare and Guidenstown, and bishop's land with Rahilla Lane; on the east bishop's land and Rahilla Lane and Dixon's. In the south-east point near to White Abbey in the cross lanes is a small lough and a ruined windmill. This surround is good arable and pasture land, only about 20 acres near Redhill and Lackagh heathy pasture. Contains in all, the highway[s] excepted in all surrounds, 582a. 2r. 0p.

1a. 3r. lost in highways in this surround, being found but 580a. 3r.

16. A parcel called Farringadrie near Fariehill adjoining to the north side of Lackagh Lane. On the west White's land, on the north and east bishop's land. It is all good arable land. Contains 3a. 0r. 0p.

17. A parcel wherein is land called Loughlion, Trensheled Mead, Leanaweana and Aughewena and other names. Bounded on the west with Silliot; on the south with White Abbey and Grey Abbey, Dixon's land; on the east with the parks without Clare Gate; on the north Duneany Lane and without it bishop's land and the Little Cunneburra, a common. This surround is all good arable and very good meadow, save only about 12 acres of good pasture next Silliot. Contains in all 82a. 0r. 0p.

18. A parcel without Clare Gate, formerly a common for the earl's tenants and of right now is lately ditched up and grazed by one person. It is bounded about with highways, a triangle piece called Little Cunneburra, the walls of the White Abbey near the north-east point. Contains 3a. 3r. 10p.

19. A surround of the parks west of the Abbey Lane without Clare Gate and the highway to Duneany and the small parks betwixt Duneany highway and the highway from Fire Castle, wherein is several gardens and cabins and several roads and highways within the surround. Bounded on the west with the land of number 17 in the map and Little Cunneburra; on the north with White Abbey, White's land and bishop's land; on the east with church land, Fire Castle, Clare Gate and Abbey Lane; on the south with Dixon's land. Contains in all 9a. 3r. 0p.

20. A little garden near Clare Gate south; bounded with bishop's land and Abbey Lane. [Contains] 0a. 0r. 16p.

21. Two gardens, bounded on the west end with Abbey Lane; on the north side a garden, bishop's land; on the east end the old walls of a house near the tolsel; on the south side a small garden belonging to the 49 interest.² Contains 0a. 2r. 16p.

22. One garden, the west end bounded with the Abbey Lane which is without Clare Gate; on the south with a common near a pinfeld, the east point near the tolsel; on the north side with the aforesaid garden belonging to the 49 interest. Contains 0a. 1r. 16p.

23. A surround of several houses and gardens wherein is a parcel on the south of Tully highway to Grey Abbey called Knockanegreg claimed by Tully [which] contains 1a. 0r. 25p. This surround is bounded [on the south by] the land of Tully; on the west with the town street which leadeth to [the] abbey by the tolsel; on the north with the middle street which goeth straight from White Gate place³ to Clare Gate. Without White Gate three cabins; within White Gate two cabins; then a large stone wall house, now the sign of the Fitzgerald Arms; two other houses, betwixt which is a house and garden, church land; on the west three cabins and gardens. Contains in all 4a. 3r. 0p.

24. Two cabins and little gardens opposite to the sign of the Black Bull, on the east two cabins and gardens belonging to the 49 interest. [Contains] 0a. 0r. 24p.

25. A surround on the outside of the walls of the earl's castle, and also the house without the walls which now hath the sign of the Ormounte Arms, and two little dwellings on the north west of the castle walls within Ellis Gate about two perches. [Contains] 1a. 0r. 20p.

26. A surround wherein is two gardens and cabins, the Earl's Park on the north of the castle walls east of the highway without Ellis Gate, and three cabins and gardens west of the highway without adjoining to Ellis Gate. Also in this surround is the land called Broadhook, Croftina, Calline, Callyaghknock, Farrinacappoge, Farrinacarra, Farrinamalla, Knockmancill, Farrintra, Glanbrattas and several other names. Two highways lieth through this surround, the one to the Curragh called Curragh Lane, the other towards Brownstown. Bounded on the south-east with Dixon's land adjoining to the Curragh, on the north-east with the Curragh; on the north with the dean and chapter[s] land and bishop's land, [and] with Boremore Lane; on the west with a parcel of the 49 interest of about 1a. 1r., wherein standeth part of the walls of a stone house and two gardens of bishop's land and castle walls; on the south with Tully glebe land by Blindwell. Contains in all, besides 2a. 1r. highway, 247a. 1r. 0p.

5½ acres lost in this surround by highways, being found but 241a. 2r.

27. Farringranagh, a parcel bounded on the west with Rathbride Lane, on the south end with Boremore Lane, on the east with bishop's land. Arable. [Contains] 2a. 0r. 20p.

28. Farrinboy, a parcel bounded on the west with Rathbride Lane, on the north with White's, on the east and south with bishop's land. Good arable. Contains 10a. 1r. 0p.

29. A parcel called Sholaine, long and small. Good arable land, adjoining on the west side of Rathbride Lane, and on the west side of it bishop's land. Contains 1a. 0r. 16p.

30. A parcel called Farringate, arable land, 40 perches from Ellis Gate. Bounded on the south with bishop's land, on the west with Dunmurry Lane, on the north with bishop's land, on the east with Rathbride Lane. [Contains] 16a. 1r. 0p.

31. A parcel called Burgage, a parcel bounded on the west with Rahilla Lane, on the east with Dunmurry Lane, and north and south with bishop's land. [Contains] 5a. 0r. 0p.

32. A parcel called Meadmill, good arable and a small parcel of meadow. Bounded on the west with Rahilla Lane, on the east with Dunmurry Lane, and on the north and south with bishop's land. Contains 5a. 0r. 0p.

33. A parcel called Cloghgarret and Farrincooley. Bounded on the west with Dunmurry Lane, on the east with Rathbride [Lane] and on the north and south with bishop's land. Contains 15a. 1r. 0p.

34. A parcel called Keeloge, arable land, adjoining to the east side of Rathbride Lane. On the east with White's and archdeacon's land, and on the north with the Curragh. Contains 13a. 1r. 0p.

The total contents of the earl's land in the town of Kildare 1003a. 2r. 2p.

1. It is not clear whether Little Cunneburra or Coneyburrow was meant to be part of no. 18 (in which case this comma should be a full stop) or one of the parcels adjoining it.

2. In the records of the restoration land settlement officers who had served the crown in Ireland before June 1649 were known as the 49 interest.

3. The name 'White Gate place' seems improbable. Perhaps part of a reference to the Market Place has been accidentally omitted at this point.

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NOTE ON MAP 2

The map of Kildare in 1838 is derived from the 1:1056 manuscript plan of the town in the Ordnance Survey office, Dublin, together with the published 1:10,560 Ordnance Survey map of Co. Kildare, first edition, sheet 22, and has been adjusted to the planimetry of the published 1:500 town plan of 1872. Solid lines represent features still extant in 1872, while dotted lines indicate that, since the feature had disappeared by that date, its exact position cannot be determined.

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Seal of Kildare